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NAVY FIGHTER PLANES DOWN 14 ENEMY CRAFT IN FIGHT OVER MUNDA

Nippon Squadron Destroys All But Six Out Of Raiding Force

FROM GUADALCANAL

Six Grumman Fighters, Seven Curtiss Bombers and One P-38 Plane Smashed

An Imperial Navy fighter plane squadron on December 23 shot down 14 of the score or more enemy aircraft that came flying from the Guadalcanal area, according to a communique of the Imperial Headquarters issued at 5 p.m. Monday.

The communique reads:

"On December 23 an Imperial Navy fighter plane squadron gave fight to 20 or more enemy aircraft that came flying from the direction of the Guadalcanal area over Munda on New Georgia Island and shot down 14 (six uncertain) of the number. The particulars of the battle results follow:

"Six Grumman fighters (two uncertain).
Seven Curtiss carrier-borne bombers (four uncertain).
One P-38.

"In this air engagement, we sustained a loss of two planes either dashed against the enemy or having not yet returned."

The island of New Georgia lies about 200 kilometers northwest of Guadalcanal and Munda is on the northwestern tip of New Georgia near the island of Wanawana.

Vigorous Fight Continues

The gigantic-scale fighting staged in the South Pacific with the Solomon Islands as the base of operations in general and Guadalcanal Island in particular since August 7 this year has continued with unremitting vigor on land, sea and in the air. The fighting has already lasted for over 140 days. It is indeed a titanic struggle and although the issue still remains undecided, all developments prove that the final issue will be in Japan's favor.

Sudden activity has been witnessed at the enemy air bases in the Solomons and New Guinea Island recently, with enemy planes repeating their reconnaissance flights and launching attacks almost every day in formations. Japanese Air Units are challenging these attackers relentlessly and frustrating all their moves.

On December 23 the enemy in a formation consisting of more than 20 planes hopped off from their base on Guadalcanal. Japanese reconnaissance planes immediately sallied forth to a point about 100 nautical miles off Guadalcanal, and staged a thrilling aerial warfare in the skies of Munda, New Georgia Island. In the furious encounter, the Japanese planes shot down 14 enemy planes. Losses to our side were slight, as only two planes either self-blasted or have not yet returned.

The activity of the Japanese Navy planes is really spectacular, a fact which has truly been demonstrated in the series of daring aerial combats in the Battles of the Solomons. The United States navy has so far lost 125 warships since the opening of the First Battle of the Solomons and more than 850 of its planes downed by the Japanese Navy Forces.

The performance of the machines shot down by the Japanese air unit follows:

Grumman fighters (G-3): single motor, 1,050 horsepower, equipped with six 7.7 or 12.7 millimeter machine guns, develop a maximum speed of 532 kilometers per hour, cruising radius 1,872 kilometers, retractable landing gear. The newest Grumman Skyrocket fighters are bimotor planes of apparently considerable performance but no particulars are available.

Lockheed fighters (P-38) two motors, Allison engines, 2,250 horsepower, maximum speed 652 kilo-

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Blitzkrieg on Yunnanye Airfield Paralyzes Enemy Defense Units

Not a Single Plane Challenges Japanese Warplanes As Attacks Take Foe Entirely by Surprise, Says Japanese Flier

Domei

UNDISCLOSED JAPANESE BASE, December 28.—Captain Masao Miyamaru who participated in the surprise Japanese Army aerial attacks over Yunnanye airfield, 200 kilometers northwest of Kunming on December 25, declared the enemy's defenses were so completely paralyzed not a single enemy plane challenged the Japanese attack forces.

Captain Miyamaru said, "December 25 was a fine day, affording us a clear view of our objective. As our attack took the enemy by complete surprise, their fighter planes did not rise to challenge us while their anti-aircraft guns also failed to open fire.

"As the result the Japanese bombers freely roared over the enemy target to release direct bomb hits on the airdrome below at will.

"Meanwhile, our fighter units which impatiently waited for enemy interceptor were forced to merely watch the activities of our bombers."

In the meanwhile, the Japanese Southern Expeditionary Forces issued the following communique at 3:30 o'clock this afternoon:

"Following a surprise attack launched on December 25, our army air units again subjected the enemy airdrome at Yunnanye to a fierce air raid on December 26 and destroyed six enemy planes on the ground, besides shooting down five enemy aircraft, consisting of P-20 fighters, during the aerial duel. One of our machines has not returned to its base as yet."

Domei

UNDISCLOSED JAPANESE BASE, December 28.—In addition to a total of 22 enemy fighter and bombing planes which were either demolished or set afire, the enemy airfield installations at Yunnanye sustained tremendous damages as a result of the air raids carried out by the Japanese Army Air Force on December 25 and 26.

The significance of the Japanese air raids lies in the fact that Yunnanye has been utilized by the enemy as an important link in the supply route connecting India and Chungking by air and also as a base from where the enemy may attempt to attack Burma.

The operations of the raiding Japanese warplanes particularly were fierce on December 26 when numerous direct hits were scored by the Japanese bombers. Fifteen enemy fighter planes of the P-40 type took to the air to challenge the Japanese attackers, and during the ensuing aerial combat five enemy planes were shot down.

During the second day's air raid, the Japanese Air Force demolished six enemy planes on the ground and returned safely to their base except for one machine which has yet failed to return, according to the latest report.

4 BANKS PLAN NEW MERGERS FOR NEXT YEAR

Mitsui, Dai-Ichi, Mitsubishi And One Hundredth Banks Are Involved

DECISION IS APPROVED

New Move Seen to Strengthen Nation's Financial Structure Toward Final Victory

The Finance Ministry on Monday gave its approval to the decision of four leading Japanese banks, including the Mitsui, Dai-Ichi, Mitsubishi and One Hundredth banks, to carry out mergers, with negotiations for concrete measures to be undertaken early next spring. It is expected that the formal mergers will take place in March, or April at the latest.

It is understood that the preliminary negotiations leading to the adoption of the above decision were carried out by the authorities of the four banks concerned in order to contribute to the further strengthening of the nation's wartime financial structure. Under the proposed mergers, the banks will have combined deposits totaling ¥5,000,000,000.

The authorities of the Dai-Ichi, Mitsui, Mitsubishi and One Hundredth banks on Monday issued statements under their joint signatures on their mergers as follows:

Dai-Ichi and Mitsui

"For scores of years we two banks have bent our efforts toward the advance of our country's industry and trade and we have contributed something toward their development. Confronted by an emergency period of unprecedented proportions, we are keenly aware of the need of joint effort on the part of all the 100,000,000 people of this country. Accordingly, we must make proper adjustments in the monetary institutions in line with the national policy regardless of tradition, make a new departure in order to fulfil our mission as commercial banks and thereby contribute to ultimate victory in the War of Greater East Asia and the completion of the reconstruction of Asia. Animated by this conviction, we two banks have consulted each other in a most friendly spirit, and after due decision by a plenary session of shareholders and formal approval by the Government authorities, the two banks will dissolve and jointly form a new bank on equal terms, so that together we may serve our country through monetary operations.

Dai-Ichi Bank, Inc.
Mitsui Bank, Inc."

Mitsubishi—One Hundredth

"In view of the momentous nature of the current situation, we two banks, in order to contribute to the smooth operation of monetary functions, will effect a merger in such a way that together we may make a new departure as a purely national and public institution; will renovate the personnel and internal structure to give full play to the capacities inherent in each; will strive to increase national savings for greater war and production funds and will in this manner discharge our national mission to the utmost.

TAKEO KATO,
Chairman of the Board of Directors,
Mitsubishi Bank.
ZENSAKU SEKINE,
Director of the
One Hundredth Bank."

Commenting on the mergers, Finance Vice-Minister Tsuneji Taniguchi stated as follows:

"Negotiations have been concluded between the Dai-Ichi Bank and Mitsui Bank and the Mitsubishi Bank and One Hundredth Bank for their respective mergers. The first-mentioned two banks have decided to found a new bank on their merger. Simultaneously, it has been arranged that the Mitsubishi Bank will absorb the One Hundredth Bank.

"These banks have a history of their own. They are first-rate banks of this country. Alive to the prevailing situation at home and abroad and in conformity with the requirements of the State, these banks have voluntarily decided to effect the merger to leave nothing to be desired in their efforts to cooperate with the purposes of the State. This is indeed a matter for congratulations for Japan's financial circles.

"I am prompted to express my profound respect to the management of these banks for having

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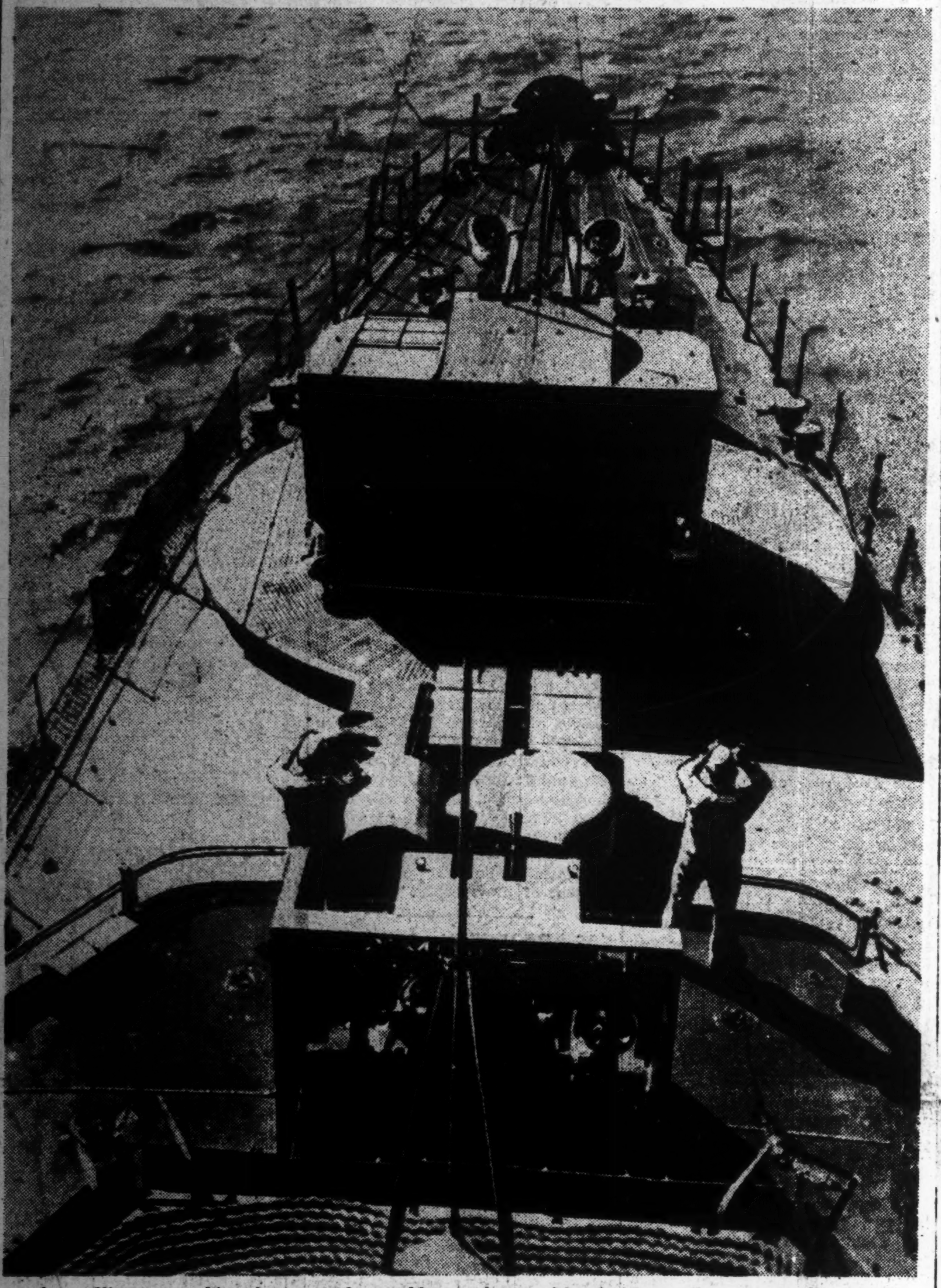
On the Look-Out



As a Nippon warship plows up the muddy Yangtze River, sharp, ever-watchful eyes scan the waters ahead for signs of the enemy, alert to spring into quick, decisive action at a split-moment's notice. (Passed by the Navy Ministry)

NANKING CHIEF SEES GEN. HATA AFTER RETURN

President Wang Will Complete China's Structure to Take Active Role

WILL STRENGTHEN TIES

Chinese Nation to Live and Die With Japan in Struggle for New Order

Domei

NANKING, December 28.—Wang Ching-wei, President of the National Government of China, this morning spent 30 minutes in discussion of important affairs with General Shunroku Hata, Commander in Chief of the Japanese Expeditionary Forces in China, at the latter's official residence here.

President Wang Ching-wei, it will be recalled, returned yesterday from Tokyo by air following a week's visit in the Japanese capital consulting with Prime Minister General Hideki Tojo and others on matters of mutual interests including Japan-China collaboration in the prosecution of the War of Greater East Asia in its second year.

To Complete Setup

Reports from China indicate that the first thing President Wang Ching-wei will do after his return from Japan will be to complete the work of constructing a structure which will enable China to play its full role in the achievement of the object of the War of Greater East Asia, says the Nichi Nichi.

President Wang, it will be recalled, came to Japan to felicitate Japan on the victories which have been scored by the Imperial Forces in the War of Greater East Asia and confer with the leaders of the Japanese nation about steps to strengthen the ties of cooperation between Japan and China.

While he was in Japan for a week, he met the leaders of the Japanese Government and men prominent in various circles in Japan.

His first meeting with the leaders of the Japanese nation, which occurred on December 21, was with Prime Minister General Hideki Tojo. Greater East Asiatic Affairs Minister Kazuo Aoki and Foreign Minister Masayuki Tani were present at the meeting.

During the meeting, which lasted for two and a half hours, he discussed things candidly with the Japanese leaders.

He had another meeting with Prime Minister Tojo on December 25. This meeting, which was held at the Prime Minister's official residence, lasted nearly an hour.

He also conferred with Navy Minister Admiral Shigetaro Shimada.

On December 23 he gave a talk to the press, in the course of which he made remarks that left observers in no doubt that he had the object of his visit to Japan fully realized.

During his talk he stated that the way had been cleared for the two countries of Japan and China to work together to bring the War of Greater East Asia to a conclusively successful end.

At another place he said that he had reached agreement with the leaders of the Japanese Government on measures for the solution of the

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INDIAN TROOPS BACK INDEPENDENCE DRIVE

Captives Express Enthusiastic Desire to Aid Movement at Conference

Domei

UNDISCLOSED BASE, December 28.—Indian soldiers are now fully awakened to national consciousness and eager to aid in the independence movement of India taking advantage of the present opportunity.

It was revealed in a round-table conference held here today of Indian soldiers who were taken prisoner by the Japanese Army and who are now being well taken care of by the latter. That they harbor ill-will against the British officers, who subjected them to cruel treatment during the war in Hongkong, was clearly indicated.

Attending the conference were Igubal Hussain, Burhan Din, Mohammed Ali Saraj Abbas, Mohammed Alwarbutt, and Mohammed Yagub.

Converted by Leaflet

Igubal Hussain, who is a sub-lieutenant said: "I was commanding a field gun corps, but before the fierce attack of the Japanese Forces we were powerless. In the meantime, I picked up a leaflet dropped by Japanese planes and learned that Japan is, like India, an Asiatic country, that India should work in concert with Japan and that it is foolish for Indians to fight against Japan. I also learned from the leaflet that Japan is only fighting against the United States and Britain and that Britain has not given any benefit to India but has, on the contrary, been exploiting India. And I came to the conclusion that it was useless for me to fight any longer."

Burhan Din, a sergeant, said, "I was working as a godown-keeper and knew that supplies were not enough. As you know, Hongkong is

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Towering Flames Rage Over Blagoveschensk Across the Amur River

Breaking out from the barracks of the Soviet Far Eastern Army, a raging fire fanned by the winds accompanying a furious Siberian snowstorm is sweeping over the city of Blagoveschensk, according to a Domei December 28 dispatch from Heiho. The conflagration began at 6:30 p.m. Sunday. Blagoveschensk is across the Amur from Heiho in Manchoukuo and the roaring flames and thick smoke can be clearly seen from Heiho. On Monday morning the inferno was still going full blast with no signs of any possibility of its being put out. The fire is the first big one in five years.

WOMEN'S MILITARY SCHOOL IS FOUNDED IN THAILAND

Daughter of Premier Pibul Songgram Is One of 30 Women Who Enter First Class

Domei

BANGKOK, December 28.—The newly organized Thai Women's Military Academy was formally inaugurated with ceremonies held at the Military Engineering Academy at 10:00 o'clock this morning attended by a large number of prominent persons, including Premier Pibul Songgram and leaders of the Army.

Passing difficult entrance examinations, 30 women, including a daughter of the Premier were admitted as the first class of the new institution. After one year's military training, the graduates, ranging between 18 to 23 years, will be commissioned as auxiliary officers of the Thai army.

The Thai army is now contemplating the establishment of a women's military school for non-commissioned officers in the near future.

AOKI AND MINISTERS TO CHINA HOLD MEET

Prime Minister Also Attends Conference to Exchange Views Based on Unity

With a complete agreement having been reached on the fundamental policy for close cooperation between Nippon and China as a result of President Wang Ching-wei's recent visit to Tokyo, Minister of Greater East Asiatic Affairs Kazuo Aoki on Monday met with Ambassador to China Mamoru Shigemitsu, Minister at Shanghai Akiyoshi Tajiri and other Ministers to China who are at present in Tokyo in the first meeting for the exchange of opinions at his official residence. Prime Minister

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Today's Press Comments

Tuesday, December 29, 1942

(Excerpts from important editorials which are appearing this morning in the leading vernaculars are published herewith. Translations of other editorials will be found daily in the Evening Edition of the Japan Times Advertiser.)

Merger of Four Large Banks

NIPPON SANGYO—Arrangements have been made for the establishment of a large bank on the merger of the Mitsui Bank and Dai-Ichi Bank and of another on the merger of the Mitsubishi Bank and One Hundredth Bank. This is an event which will mark a new epoch in the history of Japanese banking. The situation which is increasing in gravity is the explanation of the fact that no hitch occurred in the realization of a merger plan in which such large banks were involved.

Part of the motive underlying the combination of the four banks will be seen from the fact that the Mitsui Bank, which has a small number of branches, will merge with the Dai-Ichi Bank, which has many branches, and that the Mitsubishi Bank, with a small number of branches, will merge with the One Hundredth Bank which has many branches.

At the present time the five leading banks in London are engaged in the adjustment of their affairs. The adjustment is motivated by the desire on the part of the banks to prepare against the possibility of being short-staffed due to the enrollment of employes in the army, to minimize losses from air attacks and other wartime incidents, and to reduce maintenance expenses.

The combination of the four Japanese banks is differently motivated. It will make possible the

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BRITISH VIEW GIRAUD AS POOR POLITICIAN

Now Regard Darlan's Successor as Incapable of Handling Complex Situation

With Lieutenant-General Henri Honore Giraud taking over the status of chief puppet after the death of Admiral Jean Francois Darlan, British political circles now view the future with alarm because Giraud is considered to be a complete amateur in political matters and because of the serious complexity of the situation, according to a December 27 Stockholm dispatch to Domei.

The report quotes a London dispatch to the Social Demokraten as follows:

"Although British political circles at first showed satisfaction at the death of Darlan, the same circles now view the future with alarm in view of the fact that Giraud, who has taken over after Darlan, is a complete amateur in politics and because the situation is one of overwhelming complexity. That Giraud is decidedly pro-De Gaullist is regarded by the British as his only favorable point, and many doubt whether that fact will help in solving the chaotic situation.

"The British government has not yet revealed what sort of attitude it will take and although it probably intends to reach some agreement with Washington by sending De Gaulle there, no prophet can foresee whether the fundamental opposition between the two nations will be eased.

"According to a London report, Reuters, in reporting the death of Darlan, said "Darlan went the way of all traitors," and immediately afterwards retracted that statement. It is very clear that from the beginning Roosevelt had expected much of Darlan and even if Giraud reorganizes the puppet regime and places his lieutenants in important posts informed circles doubt that his authority will take hold."

Cultural Pact Gazetted

The Japan-Thai Cultural Agreement, ratified on December 26, was published in the Official Gazette Monday. It is recalled that this agreement was signed by representatives of the two countries when they met here on October 28.

TOJO IS PRESIDENT OF SCIENCE COUNCIL

Heads New Cabinet Body Which Will Promote Nippon's Technical Efficiency

Prime Minister Hideki Tojo on Monday assumed presidency of the Council of Science and Technology, which has just been established in the Cabinet. Simultaneously, the appointment of the vice president and 183 members was made public.

The members selected from among private circles number 55, all men of prominent fame in scientific and technical circles. The appointment of 52 secretaries of the Council, selected from among secretaries, technical officials and engineers of the Cabinet, Planning Board, Technical Affairs Board and other Government institutions, also was announced.

Dr. Viscount Tadashiro Inouye, President of the Technical Affairs Board, is vice president under Prime Minister Tojo. The inaugural general meeting of the Council will be held early in January. The members selected from among various Government institutions, mainly the Patent Board, Home Ministry, Finance, Army, Navy, Tokyo Imperial University and other Imperial Universities, Agriculture and Forestry Ministry, Commerce and Industry Ministry, Communications Ministry and others are all well known figures in the technical world.

Among the 55 members selected from among private circles are Dr. Hantaro Nagaoka, president of the All-Japan Science and Technique Federation, Vice-Admiral Takuo Godo, president of the Japan Efficiency Promotion Society, Dr. Viscount Masatoshi Okochi, president of the Physico-Chemical Research Institute, Baron Kimmochi Okura, adviser to the East Asia Research Institute, Kiyoichi Nakajima, president of the Nakajima Airplane Works, Kiyoshi Goko, president of the Mitsubishi Heavy-Industries, and others.

Since the Cabinet meeting of May 27, 1941, when the policy of enforcing three primary measures concerning the establishment of a new structure of scientific technique in

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NANKING CHIEF SEES GEN. HATA

(Continued From Page 1)

question of collaboration between Japan and China.

Now that President Wang is back in his country from Japan, great interest is aroused by what the National Government of China will do in order to associate itself more closely with Japan in the war.

This is a question which will not be baffling to those who have followed President Wang's movements since his return from Japan.

"We have much to do in order to strengthen the position of China as a partner of Japan," the President told his people in the first radio address after his arrival back from Japan.

"The National Government," he went on, "intends to take military, political, and economic steps to bolster China's position. It also means to mobilize all resources under its jurisdiction to increase China's spiritual and material power."

The most important passage in his address occurred where he indicated the determination of the National Government to go further than sharing in the joys and sorrows of Japan and live and die together with Japan.

A Nanking dispatch to the Nichi Nichi dated December 27 tells of a visible increase in the bright atmosphere surrounding the National Government which has been in evidence since President Wang returned to Nanking from Japan.

"The National Government has determined to leave nothing undone to enable China to cooperate more closely in the conduct of the Greater East Asia and in the construction of the Co-Prosperity Sphere.

"There is every reason to think that the results of the series of conferences President Wang had with the leaders of Japan during his recent visit to Japan were such as to encourage the leaders of the National Government in their desire to help the conduct of the War of Greater East Asia and strengthen the political structure of China.

"The Kuomintang is expected to hold a meeting shortly to go on record as favorable to the course the National Government is to follow under the agreement reached by President Wang with the Japanese Government."

According to the Asahi the recent visit of President Wang Ching-wei of the National Government to Japan opened a new chapter in the history of Sino-Japanese collaboration.

From now on the National Government of China will concentrate on three things: first, reconstruction of China as a supply department for the forces conducting the War of Greater East Asia, second, consumption of the overthrow of Chungking, a traitor against China, and the emancipation of China.

The Asahi recounts the stages by which the National Government has come to cast in its lot with Japan.

It was on March 15, 1940, that the National Government of China returned to Nanking.

On December 30 the same year the Basic Treaty between Japan and China was concluded. Thus the National Government was formally recognized by Japan.

The Basic Treaty between Japan and China laid down the principles to guide the two countries in strengthening their relations. In short, it stipulated that the two countries should collaborate in the political, economic, and cultural fields to make a reality of the ideal of an order grounded on righteousness embracing all the races and countries of East Asia.

In June last year President Wang visited Japan and reached an agreement with the Japanese Government on measures to be adopted by Japan and China to make the Chinese masses realize that Sino-Japanese collaboration was the first condition of the rehabilitation of East Asia.

Before President Wang departed from Japan, the famous Konoye-Wang statement was issued, pledging Japan and China to be jointly responsible for the realization of the new order of East Asia.

After President Wang's return from Japan, the conclusion of an agreement extending a loan of ¥300,000,000 to China was announced by the Japanese Government.

On July 1 the same year the National Government was recognized by Germany and Italy.

Following the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia, the National Government was prompt to clarify its attitude which was one of cooperation with Japan. All American and British influence was eliminated from East Asia long before the war was a year old. Thus the ground was prepared for the construction of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.

NOTICE

The Japan Times Advertiser will suspend the publication of its evening edition from December 29 to January 3 and its morning edition of January 3 in accordance with the decision of the Japan Newspaper Society.

Life in Makin Island, Coral Atoll In South Pacific, Told by Scribes

Resident of 27 Years in This Lonely Spot Describes Vividly Landing of Imperial Forces Shortly After Outbreak of the War

By Two Members of the Navy Press Corps

The day was clear and transparent. From the heights of the soaring plane, we saw the distant outline of Makin Island. The wide, coral reef was gowned in a luxuriant verdure of dense, tropical foliage. Around its winding, irregular shores, etched against the cerulean transparency of the sea, idly twisted the silver shoreline. Here and there were red and white buildings, nestled conspicuously among the rich, tropical vegetation. A white ribbon of a road ran horizontally east and west across the length of the island.

On landing at our destination, we visited the unit stationed on the island, and then, to acquaint ourselves with the general conditions of the island, we called upon Chojiro Kanzaki, Manager of the Makin Branch of Nanyo Boeki.

A genial man of 51, he had come to the island some 27 years before, establishing here a Makin branch office of the Nanyo Boeki. In 1919, he had married a young Spanish woman, by whom he had four sons and two daughters, the eldest of whom was in the service of the Army in North China. Today, the only Japanese on Gilbert Islands, he is striving actively in the successful fulfillment of his work and his duty.

Kanzaki's Account

The only Japanese, it was only natural that we, as members of the Navy Press Corps, highly interested in conditions existing on Makin, should seek him out as the one man qualified to afford us a picturesque, if general, picture of the island life. More than willing to assist us, Kanzaki plunged immediately into his story, eyes snapping, voice firm.

"During the first World War, we were fairly well treated by the authorities in charge here, but with Japan's withdrawal from the League of Nations, their attitude gradually changed. Various restrictive measures were enforced, and, with the exception of Makin, trade in all of Gilbert Islands was closed to Japanese residents. On Makin, the native inhabitants preferred the lower priced Japanese commodities to those placed on the market by other countries. With the commencement of the China Affair, to check this situation, British authorities resorted to such oppressive measures as raising already high duties, restricting imports, adopting and enforcing freezing policies.

"With the oppression becoming more and more severe, Japanese residents began leaving the island, until by the beginning of last year, there remained only 42 year-old Masahiro Higashigawa and myself. April saw the departure of Higashigawa, and there remained only me." He smiled faintly and continued his story.

"I remained here through many trying incidents in anticipation of some revolutionary change. And then, one afternoon, over the radio, I heard the startling news of the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia, and I knew that which must come had come to pass.

Taken to Government Office

"At that time, the only Britisher on the island was the district administrative official, Williams. The morning following the outbreak of the war, he came for me and took me to the government office.

"'Kanzaki,' he said to me enroute to the office, 'We won't mistreat you since we know you. I don't think the Japanese Forces will land here, but if they do, it will be my turn to be taken.'

"They had intended to send me to New Zealand, but before they were able to do this, the Imperial Forces had landed. Early on the morning of the 10th, possibly about 2 a.m., news rapidly spread throughout the island that Japanese transports were in sight. Through a heavy downpour of rain, native residents rushed to the eastern part of the island and excitedly raised a white flag.

"Amid the turmoil surrounding the landing and subsequent activities, Williams was captured. Looking extremely depressed and forlorn, he smiled drily at me and grimaced.

"'Well, it's my turn now.'

"Although I felt a fleeting sympathy for him, I was much too elated and jubilant in my own happiness to give him but more than a momentary thought. The sight of the hardy soldiers proudly unfurling their Ensign filled me with joy I had never before known. Unconscious tears filled my eyes, and the 30 years of oppression and hardship which I had quietly endured, were suddenly erased, and I felt at once purged and refreshed."

Copra Is Main Product

To our queries concerning the general living conditions of the island, he cheerfully replied.

"So far, copra is the only product of Gilbert Islands, but the climate here is extremely suitable for permanent residency by the Japanese people. Aside from its importance as a military base, I am confident that the islands will ultimately become a base for economic as well as racial advancement. I myself intend to dedicate the remainder of my life toward the development of these islands."

Leaving this stout-hearted gentleman, we wandered across the island to see for ourselves that which Makin had to offer. In the central part of the island was the small village of Putaritaritari. Here were located the island's central organizations—the British Colonial Government Hall, the prison, the hospital, the church—and here were established the residences of the village head and the clerks, and here in one minute corner was settled the office of the Nanyo Boeki.

The houses and trees in the vicinity of the British government building were severely scarred by ugly, bullet marks. It recalled to us the fierce skirmish which took place here between the Japanese and the American soldiers. With this trend of thought we proceeded to the small, straw-thatched house where the enemy commander, had signed the note of surrender. Behind its simple interior lay hidden a story of valiant fighting.

We began remembering the past. A silent panorama of vivid scenes began flashing through our minds. . . .

We recalled the enemy forces dividing into units, one group attempting to land on the southern coast. Against the wildly lashing waves, they found themselves helpless to steer their floundering boats, and complete disorder and confusion permeated the ranks before they were finally able to effect their landing. . . The shores are quiet now, washed only by gentle, lapping waves . . .

August 17, 2:30, the stacatto bark of guns broke the stillness of the early morning air, a prelude to the furious struggle which ensued. The deafening blast of shells, the singing whir of flying bullets, the fury of a charging onslaught, a pandemonium of confusion, turmoil, a hell of blasting fury. . . And suddenly the enemy was retreating . . The dead were fallen in scores, forgotten, abandoned . . .

Enemy Destroyed

Nine enemy soldiers were captured. They had been hiding in a submarine. A sudden blast by Japanese planes, as they left their shelter in search of dead comrades, had robbed them of their sanctuary. They had retreated to the interior of the island, only to be captured.

Following our trend of thought, we went in search of some Japanese soldiers, and found three cheerfully engaged in their work.

"At two o'clock in the morning," they replied to our queries regarding the fight, "we heard the sharp report of guns fired twice in rapid succession. Thinking it some practice maneuver by our comrades, we paid but scant attention to the matter. Suddenly Kanzaki burst in upon us, breathing heavily, and informed us in no uncertain terms that the enemy had landed.

"Immediately informing headquarters, we took our posts. Shortly afterwards, we heard the muffled roar of the planes as they went to meet the advancing enemy, and somehow, the steady, heavy drone gave us immeasurable courage.

"The attack was intense. Bombs fell like rain upon the attacking enemy. Finally, to protect ourselves against splinters from bursting shells, we were forced to crawl into the air-raid shelters.

"Some time later, we heard a strange sound somewhere in the vicinity of the shelter. Glancing cautiously out, we saw a group of ten enemy soldiers dressed in the uniforms of our men, minus only the gaiters. They were about to set fire to the automobile, intending to construct a machine-gun base.

Take to Flight

"Dashing out of our shelter, the three of us ran toward them, shouting 'Kora!' On hearing our voices, despite the fact that they outnumbered us more than three to one, the six-foot Americans took to immediate flight. Unable to overtake them, we returned to our shelter and began to smoke.

"Suddenly we heard the loud shouts of our comrades some two or three hundred feet away. We ran to join them. There, amid the fallen enemy soldiers, lay our commander, sword still in hand. He seemed strangely at peace in death. In the distance, other Japanese soldiers were rapidly following remnant enemy stragglers."

Leaving the soldiers, we went in search of the village head. We found him an extremely corpulent man, weighing more than 30 kan. From him we learned that, formerly supervising the village police and holding the power of self-government under British administration he now acted as liaison man for the Japanese Forces. Between genial smiles, he proudly displayed his badge of authority.

From here we strolled through the village and met the village doctor. With the former doctor, an islander trained in New Zealand, fleeing with the arrival of the Japanese Forces, an Army physician had taken over the job, and was now administering to the medical needs of the people. With the climate resembling that of the South Sea Islands under Japanese mandate, he briskly asserted, endemic diseases were not commonly prevalent. Scarcity of rain he snapped, sometimes brought minor epidemics of colds, but aside from this, there was, on the whole, very little sickness.

Welcomed by Islanders

We continued our meandering. Everywhere men and women greeted us with courteous bows. Suddenly remembering that these islanders were extremely fond of tobacco, we offered them cigarettes. We were greatly startled when the first of them began scrambling rapidly up the near-by palm trees. Our bewilderment turned to delight when they brought us fresh coconuts in token of their appreciation. In the midst of our enjoyment, we were interrupted by lively 10 year olds who also clamored for their share of cigarettes.

From the motley crowd surrounding us, we discovered men and women with superb physiques. Known at one time for their magnificent physical prowess and stamina, they had deteriorated under British protectorate in the 19th century, losing their former vitality. And yet, belonging to the Kanaka race of the Samoan, Tongan, and Micronesian stock, they had, despite their indolence, retained much of their physical symmetry and gracefulness.

From here we turned toward the small church, where we found one German and four French missionaries and a Protestant minister. Most of them, we learned, had lived on the islands somewhere between 10 and 55 years. To our interested queries, they emphatically declared:

"America should have recognized Japan's claims, which, if anything were just. God will, without doubt, grant Japan ultimate victory."

Part of the church-building was converted into the Makin Island Public School, which had inaugurated its first class in April. Its principal was our genial friend, Kanzaki. The enrollment of the school totaled about 100 children ranging from seven to sixteen years of age and showed promise of future increase.

We found teachers and students alike plunged in the intricate study of Japanese. We were amazed to see pupils, in this short period, learn to speak simple Japanese and write in "kana." They sang for us our national anthem "Kimigayo" and, accompanied by the young men's band, rounded off their program with "Aikoku Koshin Kyoku," "Taiheiyo Koshin Kyoku," and many other songs.

Visit Monument

We went to the northern coast of the island and visited the simple, gravepost monument erected to the fallen soldiers. Here we found an enchanting scene of gay, colorful flowers. This was the islanders simple way of expressing their respect to the men of the "Army of Miracles." Twice a day they would come, once in the early morning and once with the fall of dusk. Even now there were two or three, offering their share of flowers before the humble grave.

We suddenly remembered that an island carpenter and his family were especially devoted in their humble ritual to these dead. Rain or shine, they had never failed to offer their floral gifts to those who had crossed the Stygian shores.

We went to call on him, and found him with his wife, six sons, and four daughters, all of whom were in the employment of the Army. He answered our questions with imperious vehemence, interpreted by his eldest daughter who had mastered the Japanese language.

"I went to Tokyo some twenty years ago. It was like Paradise. With the outbreak of the war, the Japanese troops landed on the island. At first, I was very much afraid of them, for the British officials had told us time and again that, although the Japanese soldiers were very strong, they were very rough. We found them, instead, very kind and considerate. We are very happy, my family and I. Then, too, even my children are able to study."

Days followed days. During our stay on the island, we discovered that the islanders were extremely fond of dancing. We would often see them, garlanded with gay, colorful flowers, dance the whole night through with no thought of fatigue, care, or sorrow. To the stirring, yet pathetic rhythm of their songs, touched with the intoxicating fever of the tropics, they would keep in perfect time.

It was a picture of delight.

Empress Dowager Joins in Luncheon At Imperial Palace

Her Majesty the Empress Dowager proceeded to the Imperial Palace shortly before noon Monday. With Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, Her Imperial Majesty had luncheon, leaving the Imperial Palace at 3:30 p.m. for the Omiya Palace.

Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress today will visit the Omiya Palace, where They will meet Her Majesty the Empress Dowager. In the afternoon, Their Imperial Majesties will return to the Imperial Palace.

INDIAN TROOPS BACK FREEDOM

(Continued From Page 1)

a small island, and as the command of the sea was held by the Japanese Navy, there was no way for the British forces to get supplies from outside, and I knew the fall of Hongkong was just a matter of time."

"I was attached to the British military headquarters which was completely encircled by Japanese troops, and as British soldiers were keeping a strict watch on us, we could not do anything," said Mohammed Ali, a private.

Elated Over Surrender

Burhan Din again said, "When I heard the British were going to surrender, I was very glad indeed, because I thought a chance had come for India's independence."

Mohammed Alwarbutt said, "When I heard British troops had hoisted the white flag, I thought I was also going to be made prisoner, but at the same time I was convinced that the Japanese troops would not kill me."

"After being made prisoner and thinking over the past I came to the conclusion that British troops had to surrender because of the fact that there were many casualties on the part of the Indian soldiers who were the mainstay of the British forces, and the fact that we Indian soldiers lost the fighting spirit. Our British commander Young knew he could not maintain resistance without the Indian soldiers," Igubal Hussain disclosed.

Discriminatory Treatment

"New Indian recruits were paid only nine rupees a month, corporals 22 rupees, and sergeants 25 rupees," Burhan Din revealed, adding that he became a soldier because living became difficult for him.

Mohammed Ali said that he became a soldier at the age of 15 and after five years of service he was still a private.

Mohammed Yagub also became a soldier when he was 18 years old and said that he did so because life was too hard for him.

Sub-lieutenant Igubal Hussain became a soldier at the age of 17 and after two years' service he was promoted to a corporal and was paid 34 rupees as a sub-lieutenant, he said.

On the question of Indian independence Mohammed Ali said "The greatest weapon for India's independence is to shed blood, without which it is impossible to regain India's independence, and for this reason Indian leaders should work for the independence of India at the stake of their lives."

"A great dictator must appear in India for her to gain independence, and I think the religious split in India is the greatest cancer," opined Saraj Abbas.

"While I do not know of the latest conditions in India, considering the fact that British authorities are bringing pressure to bear upon every Indian, those who are working for India's independence are unable to do anything because they have no arms. In any event it is high time that all Indians awakened to national consciousness," Mohammed Ali eagerly stated.

4 Admirals Granted Imperial Audience; Gifts Are Offered

His Majesty the Emperor on Monday received in audience Vice-Admirals Kaneo Sunakawa and Koki Abe and Rear-Admirals Eiichi Mizuno and Kunizo Mori and was pleased to grant them gracious words of appreciation for their services in addition to gifts bearing the Imperial Crest. Admiral Shigetaro Shimada, Navy Minister, and Admiral Osami Nagano, Chief of the Naval General Staff, were both present at the function which took place in the main antechamber of the Imperial Palace beginning at 10 a.m. Vice-Admiral Sunakawa, received the further honor of being granted an audience by Her Majesty the Empress.

4 Banks Plan New Mergers For Next Year

(Continued From Page 1)

taken such an appropriate measure in a decisive manner, regardless of their tradition and peculiar circumstances under which they operated for many years, solely for the sake of the State.

"After the merger the banks will have an enormous capitalization. How to manage these banks in the future is a matter which directly concerns the interest of the State and public. Naturally, therefore, position of these banks will be given an added momentum. It is earnestly hoped that the new banks will carry on business in a manner to meet the expectations of the State more than ever before. As to the Government, it will not begrudge its efforts toward rendering as much assistance as possible to the development of these banks."

FOE PROPERTY AFFECTED

China Receives British, U.S., Swedish, Norwegian Missionaries

C.P.S.

PEKING, December 28.—Over 30 residences belonging to British, American, Swedish and Norwegian missionaries were formally handed over to Chinese control at a ceremony held here recently in the presence of officials of the Nipponese Special Service.

Among the properties so transferred are those owned by the American Board Mission, London Missionary Society, Presbyterian Mission and Methodist Episcopal Mission.

Court Rank Raised

Baron Chikao Hondo and 903 others, including civil officers, soldiers and peers have been graciously granted a raise in their respective court ranks, it was officially announced Monday by the Imperial Household Department.

Today's Press Comments

(Continued from Page 1)

solution of the vexed question of the tendency among banks to open as many branches as possible. The merger of the four banks will not come as a surprise to persons acquainted with the Japanese banking world. The merger of the four banks will stimulate the combination of other banks in the country.

There is another reason behind the merger of the four banks. There has been a great need of adjusting the affairs of inefficient industrial companies so that some of the materials assigned to them may be made available to the more efficient concerns. The merger of the four banks seems to us to suggest that there should not be any delay in bringing about the much needed adjustment of industrial circles.

Our Determination

YOMIURI HOCHI—As was made clear by the reports of the War and Navy Ministers in the Diet, in one year of the War of Greater East Asia every American, British and Dutch point in East Asia has been destroyed, the battlefront now covers the whole Pacific and Indian Oceans extending to the waters of South Africa, and an invincible position for absolute victory has been secured. The enemy, however, in spite of the tremendous setbacks it has suffered continues to scheme a desperate counter-offensive. War Minister Hideki Tojo's warning that next year will be the most important year, the year which can be expected to be the decisive year in the War of Greater East Asia, must be seriously taken.

America and Britain have set the year 1943, when their armaments will be complete, as the year for counter-offensive against Nippon. By doing so they have probably been trying to bolster the sagging morale of their people. But we must also consider how much confidence they have in carrying out such operations and how great is their spirit of co-operation. A recent London broadcast completely denied American reports that the war in the Pacific was gradually becoming more favorable to America and warned that the Japanese Navy's silence since the Third Battle of the Solomons was something which should be most feared by American and Britain.

According to this warning the Japanese Forces' movements and operations can never be predicted and although the American navy considers the Solomons the most important area of battle it cannot be predicted where the Japanese Navy will break its silence and it is being over-simple to expect it to attack only in the Solomons. This broadcast showed clearly the British dissatisfaction at the great difference between the American navy's accomplishments and its propaganda.

Britain thus views with severe apprehension the American navy's operations in the Pacific and in America too raging criticisms have arisen in recent days. Hanson Baldwin of the New York Times who went through action in the South Pacific recently reported in detail the American navy's complete defeat in the three battles of the Solomons. And a representative who toured the battlefields in the Pacific for four months also gave his support to Baldwin's report.

In addition this representative revealed the utter incompetency of those in charge of the American navy's operations, the discord between the army and navy, and the undercover-opposition of the headquarters of the fleet in the southwestern Pacific and McArthur's headquarters and has set down the conclusion that with such conditions a losing war is only natural.

Enemy Reveals Losses

Domei

BUENOS AIRES, December 27.—The United States State Department today announced that since Anglo-American invasion into North Africa, the anti-Axis Powers have lost 114 airplanes, 59 of which are American machines, a Washington dispatch arriving here today said.

JUST OUT!

BRITISH MISDEEDS IN INDIA

RASH BEHARI BOSE

It is the purpose of this book to give whatever light it may upon the conditions in India at this time. It hopes to enlighten the readers on the situations which have evolved between the British and the people of India, and to help solve the innumerable problems which have faced and which will face India in her stand for independence.

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RENGOKAI DEFEATS Y.C.A.C. IN FOOTBALL

Tokyo Grid Stars Score Four Touchdowns—Clinch Victory With 24 Points to 14

In a Gaikyu football game played on the Negishi field Sunday afternoon, the Nisei Rengokai grid stars defeated the Clubman by the score of 24 points to 14. The winners led by the hard-running Narumi hit pay dirt on four different occasions, while the Club stars by means of a belated rally managed to cross the Rengokai line twice.

The losers with a make-shift line-up did extremely well, however, as the Rengokai team was composed of a number of prominent varsity players, including Narumi from Waseda and the brilliant Wakatake from Meiji.

Thrills Galore

Hard aggressive play featured the match which was played throughout with only one substitution being made by either team. Narumi was the individual star for the winners, the powerful Waseda full-back scoring three touchdowns besides being prominent on defense. He was well supported by Wakatake who turned in a whale of a game in the right end position and in the fourth quarter he took over the full-back duties from Narumi and immediately marched down the field to a touchdown.

The Rengokai team gave their ball toters plenty of protection and the blocking was of the highest order. In contrast to the razzle dazzle tactics employed by the winners, the Y.C. and A.C. relied on straight plays and most of the yardage gained by them were the result of off tackle plunges and end runs. The winners took to the air on five occasions, completing three of them including a 30-yard toss by Narumi which eventually led to their first touchdown. In contrast to this the Club players threw only two passes during the entire game but Fukuda's heave to Yamawaki was good for 25 yards. For the losers Fukuda, Yasuda and Bucky Harriss were prominent on attack, while the diminutive Shima was outstanding on defense.

On winning the toss Captain Harriss decided to receive and Shima ran back the opening kick to midfield. The losers scored three first downs in succession on line plunges by Fukuda and Harriss, while a tricky reverse saw Yasuda, former Waseda star, pick up 15 around the left end. The Rengokai line stiffened at this stage and three cracks at the line gained the Club players only six yards. With four yards to go Fukuda decided to send Harriss around the left end, but the latter was stopped in his tracks when the fast-charging Wakatake nailed him. The quarter ended without a score.

In the second quarter Narumi tossed a long spiral that connected with Wakatake and the latter ran the ball to the ten-yard stripe before he was brought down from behind. Two cracks at the line and then an end run saw Narumi scoring without a hand being laid on him. The kick for the extra point was blocked by Weiss.

Rengokai Takes Lead

The second Rengokai touchdown was scored in the middle of the quarter when a 40-yard march culminated in Narumi scoring off a lateral from Nakamura. Their attempt for conversion failed when Hattori's pass was knocked down. The first half ended with the visitors leading by 12 points to nil. In the third quarter the losers threatened but a fumble lost them a certain chance to score. After taking the ball over in midfield Fukuda rifled the ball to Yamawaki who ran ten yards and then tossed a lateral to Harriss who advanced the ball to the ten-yard stripe before he was brought down.

On the play, however, he fumbled and Uchima recovered the ball for the Rengokai. With the winners in possession they marched steadily up the field and Narumi finally picked an opening through the left side of the Club line and broke out in the open and raced 75 yards for a spectacular touchdown. No further scoring took place and the third quarter ended in the visitors leading by 18 points to nil. The Rengokai boys scored their final touchdown in the beginning of the period when Wakatake picked up yardage on off tackle plays and finally went over following a brilliant 25-yard run. They failed for the fourth straight time to convert. It looked like a complete rout for the Club players but they came back strong and scored twice in 10 minutes of play. The first score was the result of a run by Harriss, who advanced the ball to the ten-yard stripe before he was downed.

On the next play the same player ripped through the line to score the Club's first touchdown. A lateral from Fukuda to Harriss saw the latter add the extra point. The Rengokai boys again staged a determined march down the field but a long pass intended for Narumi was intercepted by Harriss who ran 70 yards for his second tally. Both Yasuda and Bielous figured prominently on this play as they blocked out two would-be tacklers who were gaining fast on Harriss.

Fukuda cracked the center of the line for the extra point. The game ended soon afterward with the Rengokai holding a 24 to 14 lead.

The following players represented the two sides:

Y.C. and A.C.: Messrs. Fukuda, Harriss, Yasuda, Yamawaki, Matsumoto, Misokawa, Shima, Weiss, Fehlen, Agajan and Yamate.

Rengokai: Messrs. Narumi, Hattori, Yamawaki, Fukuyama, Wakatake, Sakai, Iwata, Nakamura, Wada, Takamoku, Uchima, Ishii.

Referee: Hagiwara.

Linemen: Messrs. Lord and Helm.

Hongkong, A Happy Port City

Hongkong is today a scene of contentment and prosperity as peace and normalcy once again reign throughout the port city under the wise supervision of the Japanese authorities, a shining tribute to Nippon's rapid reconstruction work. The pictures above show (top left) the memorial erected by the fighting sons of Nippon over the grave of Canadian Brigadier General Lawson on Mount Nicholson; (top right and lower left) members of the fair sex of seven or eight different nationalities sporting themselves on a holiday from their salesgirl duties; and (lower right) a glimpse of the fire brigade manned by the ever efficient Japanese.

Navy Fighter Planes Down 14 Enemy Craft

(Continued From Page 1)

meters, cruising radius 967, equipped with two 7.7 and two 12.7 millimeter machine guns and two 23-millimeter guns.

Curtiss bombers: biplanes with retractable landing gear, borne by carriers, one Wright cyclone 875-horsepower engine, one fixed machine gun, one movable machine gun, maximum speed 375 kilometers, cruising radius 985 kilometers can carry 152-300 kilograms of bombs.

Tojo Is President Of Science Council

(Continued From Page 1)

this country was adopted, the Government has been absorbed in the realization of these steps. The first of the three key measures was realized in January this year, when the Board of Technical Affairs was founded in the Cabinet. The present measure is the second. Last but not the least is the readjustment of structure of scientific and technical studies, which is expected to be realized in the near future.

ITALY SPENDS BIG SUM ON RAILWAY EXPANSION

18,500,000,000 Lire Are Spent During 20 Years of Fascist Regime

ROME.—A sum of 18,500,000,000 lire has been spent in Italy for the promotion of railways during the 20 years of Fascist regime.

Of this total, 10,100,000,000 lire was employed for the laying of double tracks on former single track routes and for the construction of bridges, new engines, station houses and dwelling houses for 8,600 railway employees.

More than 3,700,000,000 lire was expended on electrification and 4,700,000,000 for the improvement, repair and construction of rolling-stock.

By the electrification of the lines between Milan and Rome and between Rome and Reggio, Calabria, traveling on these routes has been cut from 11 to six hours and from 15 to 10 and a half, respectively.

70 Experts to Be Dispatched to Hokkaido To Observe Solar Eclipse on February 5

The departments of astronomy of the Imperial Universities of Tokyo, Kyoto, Tohoku, Kyushu as well as the Central Meteorological Observatory and other institutions dealing with the study of astronomy are busily preparing to dispatch approximately 70 experts to Hokkaido to observe the rare total solar eclipse which will occur for two minutes on February 5 beginning at 8 a.m.

This eclipse will also be visible in the Aleutian and Alaskan regions during the same day.

The total eclipse of the sun first will be visible in Manchoukuo following which it will appear over Hokkaido from 8 a.m. the same day. It will then proceed to the Aleutians, finally becoming observable in the southern part of Alaska.

During the forthcoming observations the Japanese astronomers will conduct a thorough study of the solar corona and spectrum as well as various other scientific phenomena attending the eclipse.

Among the scientific experts being sent to Hokkaido, 16 representatives of the Tokyo Observatory and Tokyo Imperial University will be stationed at Kushiro City and the northern sector of Akkoshi-machi, while five experts from the Central Meteorological Observatory will make their studies at Obihiro and Nomuro.

It is recalled that the total solar eclipse in Hokkaido was observed in 1936, at which time valuable results were gained.

NEW SHIPPING COMPANY ESTABLISHED IN SPAIN

Valencia Firm to Build Special Fleet of Ships for Coastal Navigation

MADRID.—A new shipping company bearing the name of Navisa has been founded at Valencia, according to a report received here.

This company will devote itself mainly to coastal shipping and intends building a special fleet for this purpose. It is working with the support of the Banco Espaniel de Credito and has an initial capital of 9,000,000 pesotas.

The company is planning to issue shares totalling 12,000,000 pesotas which will be on the capital market in Valencia shortly.

It is learned that the new organization has its own shipyard in the port of Alicante which will undertake the building of coastal vessels of slightly over 2,500 tons. Five shipways are scheduled of which three are to be immediately erected.

It is recalled that recently another shipping company, the Compania Fruera de Navigacion, was also founded at Valencia.

TIMELY GERMAN POLICY CHECKS WAR EPIDEMICS

Excellent Health Conditions Apparent Throughout Whole Nation

BERLIN.—Reviewing health conditions in Germany since the start of the war, Dr. Leonardo Conti, Reich Health Leader, stressed in a statement to the press that Germany's enemies were laboring under a dangerous illusion if they hoped to undermine the physical and moral strength of the German nation.

In this war Germany has successfully checked epidemics, such as typhus, typhoid fever and dysentery, which invariably accompany wars, Dr. Conti said. Even if tuberculosis has shown a slight increase, this should not give any cause for anxiety, he added.

The excellent health conditions now prevailing in Germany are not a "gift from God," but due to the carefully planned and vigilant policy and timely precautionary measures taken by the authorities, Dr. Conti concluded.

Aoki and Ministers To China Hold Meet

(Continued From Page 1)

General Hideki Tojo also attended and addressed the meeting.

The meeting began at 10 a.m. with Prime Minister Tojo, Minister of Greater East Asiatic Affairs Aoki, Ambassador to China Shigemitsu, Minister at Shanghai Tajiri, Minister at Peking Kiyonobu Shiozawa, Councillor Toyo Tsuchida, Minister to Mengchiang Major General Tamio Iwasaki, Councillor at Nanking Nakamura, Vice-Minister of Greater East Asiatic Affairs Kumaichi Yamamoto, Director of General Affairs Bureau Shimpei Takeuchi, Chief of the China Affairs Board Uzuhiko Usami, and others attending.

At the meeting the Ministers gave their reports and various matters were discussed concerning the agreement which was reached on the fundamental policy of close cooperation between Nippon and China. Prime Minister Tojo then delivered a one-hour address in which he stressed the absolute determination of the Empire to fight till victory and pointed out the great importance of cooperation between Nippon and China. The meeting closed a little after noon.

Shantung Food Output Upped

C.P.S.

TSINAN, December 28.—The production of cereals and other agricultural products in Shantung Province has greatly increased since the organization of the Emergency Foodstuffs Production Committee here in March last.

GERMANS RIDICULE BRITISH CENSORSHIP

Find Secrets Given Mostly to Deranged Idiots Like U.S. Navy Chief Knox

BERLIN.—The British Minister of Information, Brendan Bracken, described British censorship as the most liberal one in the whole world states the German Political Report.

On one occasion only it had not been possible to announce the complete minutes of a House of Commons meeting to the public. At that time a mentally deranged M.P. had committed military indiscretions. Quite apart from the fact that the British House of Commons is holding one secret session after the other, of which absolutely nothing becomes known to the public, it is interesting that the British War Office or the British Admiralty is entrusting their secrets to mentally deranged M.P.'s of all people.

Cases of mental derangement, by the way, seem to be fairly frequent in Britain. This impression is gained on perusal of the Reuters excerpts of the speeches of British statesmen. Mostly they contain only fragments of what was said. British censorship, therefore, is either not liberal, or there are more idiots at large in Britain than Bracken seems to think. More probable is, however, that Bracken did not express himself quite clearly. Obviously he wanted to say, "For the many mentally deranged in our country, British censorship is liberal enough."

To those people whom Bracken believes mentally deranged belongs apparently also the U.S. Secretary of the Navy, Colonel Frank Knox. For the latter published a report on the scuttling of the French fleet at Toulon as if he had been there himself.

Knox is so painstaking in giving details as if he were handing out an American communique. As was to be expected the British press is horrified at Knox's wealth of information regarding the Toulon affair, for it had announced to its public that the French fleet was a total loss. Knox now seems to think differently. Moreover, no one in Britain can apparently understand that Knox could keep silent on Pearl Harbor for a whole year, while he cannot keep mum on Toulon for even three weeks.

The whole comedy of the Knox statement on Toulon and the British reaction to it constitutes another characteristic contribution to the question of coordinatoin in the British and American propaganda and news services.

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AZUMAO SAKURA

His Strength Was as the Strength of Hundreds Because His Heart Was the Heart of a True Patriot

From Eiji Yoshikawa's 'Sakura Azumao'
Translated by KENICHI OTSUKA

"Anything wrong, Ryosai-sama?" asked the caller.

Ryosai shook his head. "Nothing particularly," he mumbled, squatting on the veranda, his knees embraced in his arms, and looking away at the white clouds over the Tsukuba mountains.

"There must be something wrong. Why, every time I call, I find you looking up at the sky in silence."

"Something is eating me, I suppose."

"I told you so! What's ailing you. You must take medicine."

"Exactly," Ryosai nodded in assent.

"But this ailment is the country's. It's incurable. Ah, it's incurable," he sighed, his forehead pressed against his knees. He was in tears.

The caller left the temple in surprise.

"Say, it's strange. I mean the chief priest Ryosai. Something wrong with his head. Am I to put it down to the warm weather we've been having?" the caller whispered to everyone he came across.

Ryosai

At the time of the famine of the Tempo era (1830-1843) five or six years before, Ryosai sold away not only the several hundred volumes which had been handed down by his deceased master, Kosai, and which he treasured but also the Jimmu Shoto Ki, the Nippon Shoki and the books of Waka (Japanese poetry) which he had loved to read since his boyhood.

But later, whenever slight prosperity shone on the temple, he sent a messenger to Kyoto for new books. Three or four of them arrived only today. "Kaikoku Heidan" (Treatise on Naval Japan), "Komosen Kwaki Shinkai" (New Treatise on the Firearms of Red-haired Barbarians' Ships), Ahen Senso Shimatsu (Aftermath of the Opium War)—such were their titles. They were Greek to everybody else in this mountain hamlet.

Every time new books arrived, Ryosai devoured them with unabating avidity. Then, he would gaze on the Tsukuba mountains, his knees held in his arms. His "ailment" grew worse.

Manabe village, Niiharu Province in Hitachi lay to the east of the foot of the Tsukuba mountain range, so famous in Kwanto. The village was tranquillity itself in springtime. Hens yawned; rape-seed flowers blossomed; peach trees were clearly reflected on the house walls. It was a land of dreams.

What was reflected on Ryosai's mind? None knew.

"The chief priest . . . Well, he's still young. Only 31 years of age. Maybe he's secretly pining for some girl. It's springtime, you know," some would chuckle.

The Country's Ailment

"Why have I become a priest?" Ryosai would often ask himself.

World-weariness or the desire to pray for the repose of departed souls—such was the common motive for entering the priesthood. No such motive could be traced to Ryosai's upbringing. His father, Heizo Iijima, was an indigenous country samurai and a yoeman. True, Ryosai had the sorrow of losing his mother while a child, but that could hardly be a motive.

Respect for the scholarly attainments of his master, Kosai—that, if anything, was what made him a priest. Kosai, deeply read in national classics, was an idealist with a definite conception of Taigimeibun—the relations of Sovereign and subject.

At the age of 20 Ryosai was permitted by his master, Kosai, to go up to Kyoto to pursue learning. Confining himself in Hase Temple, he stuck to his studies.

He returned several years later. Soon afterwards, his master died. "You need not grieve over my passing. The dead are all your teachers," said Kosai on his death-bed and gave the several hundred volumes which he had treasured throughout his life to Ryosai as a keepsake.

But Ryosai sold away all those volumes. He simply couldn't stand to see the multitudes starving at the time of the famine of the Tempo era. He turned all the books into cash for the relief of the famine sufferers.

By that time Ryosai had lost his taste for books. He was already deeply read. A crystal remained in his inmost heart.

Loyalty

Kinno—loyalty to the Throne—that was the crystal in his heart. The land was askew under the rule of the Tokugawa Shogunate, he thought. He was awakened to the true national polity—the Emperor's Nippon!

Looking at the world in this new frame of mind, he felt as though everything under the sun centered round the feudalistic Tokugawa family, everything—the world of Buddhism in which he lived, the world of the samurai, art, learning, everything. To him the Emperor's Japan appeared to have been relegated to the forgotten for several centuries.

By that time black ships from Western countries had visited the shores of Japan. Japan was now an object of the inordinate ambitions of Britain, France, America, and others.

China had already fallen prey to Western aggression. She was compelled to open her ports to intercourse with Western aggressors. She had opium forced on her. Over half her populace had been poisoned by opium. The startled Chinese administrators drove out opium from the country; they burned opium, they shut the doors of the country to British opium merchants.

Now was the time! The British and French Asia fleets trampled China underfoot. They dictated peace to China in Nanking. They wrested away Hongkong and Shanghai. British and French "rights" were now deeply implanted in this corner of the Orient.

Western Aggression

Successful in China, these Western powers were now reaching out their tentacles of aggression to Japan. With amazing rapidity they were heading for Tsushima, Nagasaki and even Uraga Bay.

What did the Bakufu do? Only preoccupation with its own existence. Japan might be turned into another China. Each new happening only served to expose the internal corruption. Japan was in peril.

The Imperial Court was seriously concerned over the situation. But arms, politics and all other functions of the government were entirely in the hands of the Shogunate. And the Shogunate had been weakened—a golden opportunity for invaders from afar.

"My ailment is the country's" Ryosai had said.

"How I can remain indifferent to the situation?" Ryosai was acutely worried.

Young leaves were budding forth. His ailment went from bad to worse. From green paddy fields beyond, the quiet song of the rice-planters came flowing.

Osuge

Some one entered the temple. It was the sister of Yoshijiro, a farmer near by. She was in her farming attire, her feet muddy. Her face under the sedge-hat slightly perspiring and reflecting the white flowers on the fence, she looked prettier than usual.

"Oh, Osuge-san!"

"Brother is so worried about you, Ryosai-sama, he told me to rush to you. I just ran over from the farm."

"Worried? About what?"

"In that storehouse where the folks get together there are desks and books. Brother says you had better put them away into the attic."

"Why should I? What happened?"

"The lord accompanied by his officials is on his way to this Zen-oji Temple. The party is taking a rest on the village border just now."

"Doesn't matter."

"Brother says. . . . Well, if the desks and books should come to the notice of the officials, that would be something pretty serious. He says better put them away. . . ."

"Don't be silly!" "I have been preaching to the village folks," Ryosai continued, with an air of determination, "the joy of having been born in this the land of the sun. I preach nothing ignonimous. Is your brother afraid of hearing my nightly lectures?"

"No, but . . . Everybody says better keep it secret."

"Don't you worry! No matter who comes."

In that instant, they heard samurai boisterously entering the temple gate.

Refusal

This modest country temple had nothing elaborate to boast of. Only, it was favored with scenic beauty. It was visited now and then by men of elegant taste and touring poets. It was the first time in the history of the temple that a procession of samurai and horses had pulled up at its gate.

"I am Ryosai, the chief priest. What can I do for you?"

"Are you the chief priest?!" The visitors were apparently surprised at his youth.

"Listen! We are retainers of Tsuchiya Noto-no-kami, the lord of Tsuchiura. His lordship will presently be here to hold a banquet and for a rest until dusk. Have the main hall tidied up and have a bed prepared."

After looking round at the haughty samurai, Ryosai opened his mouth: "The main hall is used, though rarely, by people holding rites in memory of their deceased parents and children. Besides, there are daily pilgrims offering prayers there. I am sorry, but I cannot allow it to be turned into a seat of amusement."

"Either the guests' room or your living quarters will do."

"What sort of an entertainment after all?" asked Ryosai.

"His lordship would have merry-making here while listening to the farmers' rice-plantation song and enjoying the rural atmosphere. This temple is blessed with scenic beauty and commands a good view of the farms. That is why his lorship has been pleased to honor the temple with a visit. A rare honor to you."

"I decline."

"What!"

"The lord wants to enjoy drinking with the accompaniment of the farmers' rice-plantation song. I cannot place this temple at the service of such a callous and indiscreet lord."

"Shut up! All the farms in the domain of Tsuchiura belongs to his lordship. His lordship may enjoy drinking and hear the rice-plantation song wherever he pleases."

"You can't say that! Hold your tongue!"

"You miscreant priest!" cried out one of the samurai, throwing away his bamboo-hat, his hand on the hilt of his sword.

Man of Grit

"Wait, wait, wait!" he was stopped by his colleagues.

"Ryosai," said another samurai, "we cannot pass over your words. Tell us exactly what you mean. If your explanation is unsatisfactory, we will not let you off."

"You said," Ryosai faced his interrogator, "all the farms in this domain belong to the lord, didn't you?"

"Isn't that true?! They have been granted by the Shogun."

"You are wrong. Every inch of land in this the Land of the Sun is the property of His Majesty the Emperor. The Shogun and the lords are only its guardians, trustees . . ."

". . . ."

"In olden times," Ryosai went on, "the Sovereigns were gracious enough to regard the farmers as treasurers. Even today the lords owe their existence to the farmers. To want to enjoy drinking and the sight of the farmers who are plodding away as if it were a show—that is a down-right sacrilege!" Ryosai was unhesitating, unrelenting, unflinching. He stared the samurai in the face.

Some one must have reported the matter to the lord. The party left abruptly.

The news of the incident soon spread far and wide. "That young priest of the Zen-oji Temple turned a blunt rebuff to the lord." "He is no ordinary priest. He's a man of grit." "Why, he's a loyalist well versed in national classics." Such were the comments of the village folks. Ryosai's name had now been indelibly impressed on the minds of thinking people. All the same, it caused the Tsuchiura clan to stand up and take notice of him as a marked man.

Toko Fujita

In the storehouse of the temple there was a pile of 20 odd desks. Every night the village youths gathered there and, sitting before the desks, heard lectures on national classics from Ryosai. "Profound is our indebtedness to the State," read the tablet hung over the wall. Under a dim light these young men after the day's hard work, flocked together every night, studied national history and were seriously concerned over the approaching crisis.

Ryosai with his character attracted not only his village youths but such loyalists as Ninzo Sakura, of Mito, Keisei Aizu, Priest Joren, Kaname Okubo, Onari Shima and Nagashima brothers—all aspirants for the Restoration of the Imperial Rule. Ryosai's abode became the meeting place of these loyalists.

One day Ryosai was called on by Gencho Suzuki, chief physician to the Mito clan. He was accompanied by a sturdy, elderly samurai. "Meet Master Toko Fujita," Gencho introduced the samurai to Ryosai. Toko Fujita—the name had been familiar to Ryosai. He was elated to meet him. Without any previous intercourse, the two took each other into their confidence and had a heart-to-heart talk for over half a day.

"You in the priesthood can hardly hope to realize your great aspiration. Our clan, the Mito clan, are compilers of the Dai Nippon Shi (a History of Japan) and have been protagenists of loyalty to the Throne from generation to generation. What would you say to quitting the priesthood and becoming a samurai again?" Toko sounded Ryosai, adding, "I should be happy to recommend you to our lord." Gencho, too, enthusiastically tried to persuade him. Toko's visit to Ryosai may have been at the behest of the lord of Mito.

"I am grateful for the offer, but I decline. I already have a master," came Ryosai's reply in unmistakable terms. Toko was surprised.

"Who is your master? I take it that some far-sighted person has already recommended you to some other clan."

"The August Sovereign in Kyoto is my master. No other master will I serve," declared Ryosai, sitting up, his face downward as if in worship in the direction of the Imperial Palace far away.

Departure

A reverberatory furnace was built at a corner of Isohama Port which was caressed by the breeze from the Pacific Ocean. Temple bells had been melted into guns in defense of the country. The samurai of the Mito clan who felt the pulse of the times were daily undergoing strenuous training. Ronin were attracted to the Mito clan. The magnanimous lord of Mito received with open arms every one who came to him. He was preparing against the approaching crisis.

Something unexpected happened. "Come to Yedo (the seat of the Shogun's government)" came the order to the lord of Mito without any previous notice. It was early in the summer of the first year of Koka (1844). Rumors spread that the lord had been ordered to Yedo to reply to a seven-point interrogation.

The whole domain of Mito was astir; it was enveloped in thick gloom. The news startled all Japan. Not only the feudal lords but the whole populace knew that the Bakufu was contemplating calling in all the "tigers" and bottling them up in a "cage."

The day of the departure arrived. The procession, Yedo-obund, was nearing the town of Tsuchiura. A Buddhist priest standing by the wayside was in prayer, his eyes half open, rosary in hand.

Meeting

"Ryosai-san!" Toko Fujita recognized him. He gave a look of gratitude. He was walking by the side of his master's palanquin. Falling out of the procession, he came up to Ryosai and whispered: "His lordship is grateful for your seeing him off, though indirectly."

Toko had been ill, but he followed his master, because he knew it was a critical moment for the lord. Everyone in the procession expected to die.

"For the country and for your lord, I hope you will do your best," said Ryosai in a quiet yet strong tone, staring Toko in his face, which had a haggard look. Then, producing a writing-brush, Ryosai wrote down on a piece of paper:

"A life dedicated to the Sovereign
Is a life worth living,"

and gave it to Toko. "Please keep this as my memento."

"Farewell!" Toko ran after his master's palanquin.

Everybody saw the scene which took place on the thoroughfare. Naozo Kaneko, the "attorney" and "detective-general" of the province, fixed his suspicious eyes on it.

Suspicion

Ryosai composed many a poem. In 31-syllable Manyo poems he gave vent to his burning patriotism. He had more and more students of poetry. The storehouse in the temple was now too small for those who came to hear his nightly lectures. Correspondence from his loyalist-friends throughout the country became frequent and voluminous.

"This won't do," thought Naozo Kaneko, the Bakufu-appointed attorney. He had his men keep a constant watch over the Zen-oji temple. If Ryosai had a visitor, there was a detective eavesdropping under the floor. When he was lecturing, detectives were keeping their eyes on the company through the window.

Ryosai was quick to perceive this. He was careful not to leave any evidence or clue. Naozo grew impetuous. "Better grill his visitors. That will be more effective," he thought. He posted a detective at the front of the house of every young man who went to Ryosai's night school. He sent his men to the priest's parishioners to coerce them into stopping offerings. Accosting express messengers on the way, he would open letters for Ryosai. He applied every conceivable form of persecution against Ryosai.

"I can't, I oughtn't remain here longer. The villagers will stop me, but for me to stay would be to harass them. Besides, I mustn't idle away in priesthood indefinitely," Ryosai decided. Early the following year, Ryosai sent a circular notice to his parishioners, announcing that rites with a holy fire would be held at the temple early in March and requesting their attendance.

The parishioners didn't know what the rites were for. It was unprecedented. Anyway, there was a large turnout of men and women, young and old, that day. Ryosai's students came from early in the morning and were busy piling up fuel wood for the holy fire.

The Lunatic

"You are no doubt aware," Ryosai began, addressing the crowd, "that our country is confronted by a multitude of problems, internal and external. Externally, barbarians' black ships have attacked our shores. Indeed, our country is face to face with a serious crisis. The country's worry is at once the worry and sorrow for us subjects. I propose, therefore, to offer a holy fire to the gods and to pray for the safety of our land and for the annihilation of the barbarians. I beseech you to join whole-heartedly in the prayer."

Then he began to chant his sutra in a sonorous voice.

Oil was poured on the pile of fuel wood and fire was set to it. Instantly, flames rose to the sky.

". . . . ?"

". . . . ? Ryosai looks entirely different today!"

"His dreadful look!"

The crowd enlarged the circle as they felt the heat in their faces. They looked more intently at the priest. He stood motionless. The wind blew toward him. Flames enveloped him. Still he remained motionless and kept on chanting the sutra. Wet with greasy perspiration, he did not look like a man of this world.

One of his students, Yoshijiro, whispered to his sister, Osuge: "Maybe. . . . the master means to perish."

Osuge thought so, too.

The skirt and sleeves of his robe were now on fire. If he did not perish, he would faint.

"Master!" Osuge jumped to Ryosai and, pulling him by the hand, removed him from under the flames.

"Osuge! My love!" Ryosai burst out, hurling his sutra-book into the flames and trying to hug the maiden.

She yelled and dashed back into the crowd. For a moment the whole crowd was dumfounded. "He has gone mad." "Ryosai-sama has gone crazy," they ejaculated the next moment. Consternation arose.

Ryosai grinned. Then he threw his pyxis, book-chest and a bundle of waste paper into the fire. "This nothing!" he hurled his rosary into the fire. Undoing his sash, he threw it into the fire. He took off his robe and threw it into the fire. The black robe was instantly turned into ashes and danced over the flames. Now completely naked, he dashed out of the temple gate, shouting, "My love! My love!" Like a guest of wind he ran about from mountain to mountain, shouting, "My love! My love!" till he was hoarse.

The Note

"Brother, I am simply ashamed," Osuge sobbed.

"Why weep? Don't show tears."

"Every time the village folks see me, they whisper that I drove Ryosai-sama mad, as if to say that I had had an amour. . . ."

"Never mind! But unfathomable is one's mind. What, in the world, was the matter with the master,"

"I haven't the slightest idea. Overwork, perhaps."

"Possibly. Come on, Osuge, let's put away the desks and other things."

"Come, brother, come into Ryosai-san's study," Osuge caught her brother by the sleeve.

In the quiet study, apparently not entered by any one since the day before, there was a vase with a branch of a cherry tree in it. An ode written on a strip of paper and thrust in the frame hung on the wall of the alcove caught their eye. It ran:

"Should an emergency arise,
I would covet to fall valiantly for the Sovereign
Just as the cherry flower falls in the wind."

It was in Ryosai's own handwriting.

Sakura

"Sanchu-san, Sanchu-san!" A knock was heard at the back door of the house of Sanchu Irokawa, a rich merchant in Tsuchiura and a student of Ryosai in Waka. It was midnight.

Sanchu was going to bed. Something flashed across his mind. "Never mind, I'll go and see. It's late," he stopped his maid, and went out, lantern in hand.

Ryosai was there, exactly as he thought.

"Glad you came. Of course, I've heard the rumors. I was expecting you at any moment. I was so anxious about you, master!"

He showed Ryosai into a room and entertained him in privacy.

"I hate to trouble you, but may I, for the time being . . .?"

"Nothing is easier! But how did you dispose of the numerous letters and so forth, which would afford evidence?"

"I reduced them all to ashes. Now I've nothing to worry about. And I have returned to the world of the samurai!"

"Then . . . do you bear your former name?"

"No. A samurai now, I may die for the Sovereign at any moment. So I thought I would go by an assumed name."

"And what is it?"

"Sakura is the family name, and Azumao the surname."

"Oh, yes, you love the cherry flower. You are well named."

At one time the two men, master and disciple, confined themselves in Kashima Shrine, planted 1,000 roots of cherry, prayed for the eternal prosperity of the Imperial Family and of the land and pledged to lay down their lives for the August Sovereign.

Naturally fond of sakura—cherry—and as a reminiscence of that time, Ryosai adopted the family name of Sakura.

Fifteen Years Later

Fifteen years passed. Sakura was living at Kyuhoji-machi, Osaka. It was in the first year of the Manen era (1860). He was now past 40. "Japanese Classical Literature Taught" read the wooden tablet beside the name plate over the entrance of his modest abode.

He was poor. But cherry trees were planted both at the entrance and in the yard. The snow-white cherries, transplanted from Yoshino, were in full bloom and would soon fall.

"Teruko, there's some one at the door. Go and see," he mentioned to his wife. It was early in the morning. He was worshipping in the direction of the Imperial Palace, as usual, after rinsing his mouth.

Teruko rushed to the front porch. No one there. But there were two express letters. One was from Gencho Suzuki, Teruko's father and chief physician to the Mito clan. The other was anonymous.

"Good news, Teruko!" Azumao was extraordinarily jubilant.

The two letters were to the same effect, that Lord Ii, the chief Minister in the Shogun Government, had been beheaded outside the Sakurada gate of the Shogun's castle by loyalists. Azumao's comrades had realized their long-cherished aim.

"A light, ofter a light to the family Shinto shrine!"

Changing his clothes hurriedly, Azumao sat under the family shrine.

The Poem

The cherry flowers were falling rapidly every night.

Having put her baby to sleep, Teruko was doing her sewing, sitting at a small distance from her husband's desk.

Ishimaru, the eldest son, who had been reading in the adjoining room—his daily task—came up to his parents to say "Good night."

"Just a minute, Ishimaru," said Azumao, putting down his writing-brush and turning to his son.

The boy stood on ceremony.

"Father is a samurai. He may lay down his life at any moment for the Sovereign. Here's a lesson for you. Learn it by heart and lay it to heart," saying which Azumao gave some writing to his son.

Opening it on his lap, Ishimaru nodded.

"Read it. If you can't, ask mother to read."

Teruko read it to her son. It ran:

"Born men,
We with a heart burning red
Must stand by the Sovereign,
Render peerless and whole-hearted services to His Imperial Majesty
And be model warriors
Before we die."

"Comprehend it, Ishimaru?"

"Yes."

"You must not only learn it by heart, but lay it to heart . . . till it runs through your blood".

"I swear I shall never forget."

"You may go to bed."

At that moment two travelling samurai were standing outside under falling cherry flowers. They were apparently father and son. They smiled to each other as the conversation inside reached their ears.

"S a k u r a, Esquire," Sakura, Esquire," the young samurai knocked secretly at the door. No answer. "We are Takahashi," "We are. . . ."

"Just a moment, please," Azumao opened the door before the caller had repeated his words.

Onari Shima

"How delighted to see you! I was worried about you. Come, come right in!"

Taichiro Takahashi and his son Tojiro had fled all the way to Osaka over the Tokaido after successfully attacking Lord Ii outside the Sakurada gate along with their comrades.

Azumao and Tojiro had been friends these ten years since they were introduced by Toko Fujita. "He is absolutely reliable," said Toko when he introduced Tojiro to Azumao.

But Takahashi and his son said they had to leave that moment. They had dropped in, they said, just to bring the good news. "We can meet again," they said, "as they had found a hiding place."

"Pray at least have a tea," Teruko tried to stop them.

But they insisted on going, saying they had important arrangements to make.

"We shall not keep you longer, then. Where are you going to be settled," asked Azumao.

"At the home of Onari Shima, the priest of the Ikutama Shrine."

"I see. Shima is trustworthy. I am relieved. It's only a short way from here. But please be careful on your way."

Onari Shima, formerly a retainer of the Kasama clan in Hitachi, was devoted to the cause of overthrowing the Shogunate government. He had been Azumao's bosom friend since the latter was a priest.

Takahashi's Fate

Azumao called on Onari almost every day. One day, when he was on his way to his friend's he was met by a man. "Abominable!" Azumao turned his face. It was none other than Naozo Kaneko, the attorney and "detective-general" in Tsuchiura. What was he doing here in Osaka?

Naozo sneered as he cast a glance at Azumao.

"I had better stay away lest Takahashi and his son should get into trouble," Azumao decided. For the next few day he did not see Onari. But he wanted to see him. He was worried about him.

One day at dusk he went out to see Onari again. White cherry flowers were falling. Before he approached his friend's house in the Ikutama Shrine precinct, however, he started. His heart beat.

Several men from the magistrate's office were keeping watch over the house.

Azumao ran into the rest-and-tea house before the shrine entrance. He was well-known there. The aged proprietor in tears informed him that Onari, Takahashi and his son had all been taken away about a couple of hours before. Azumao asked the proprietor to describe the scene, which was as follows:

Having nosed out the presence of Takahashi and his son in Onari's house, several score detectives surrounded the shrine precinct. "Many of the Mito samurai are fencing masters," they cautioned one another. They took the utmost precaution.

One of the detectives went to peep into the front porch of Onari's house. An elderly samurai and his son were about to go out. "Is the guest from Mito in? Takahashi-sama, I understand, is his name," asked the detective.

"I am Takahashi. What do you want?!" he glared fiercely at the detective, who, frightened, took to his heels.

Takahashi knew what was coming. Entering another rest-and-tea house, he bought a pair of waraji (straw sandals). He was going to put them on, when, "There!" his captors surged on him.

"Stay away! Be quiet! I should be sorry if I stained this shop with my blood," said the venerable samurai.

Lo! he had alread thrust a dagger into his side. The captors shrank at the sight and merely followed him as he walked away.

Tojiro, his 19-year old son, and Onari were arrested soon afterwards.

The proprietor's description ended there. He was in tears and was thoroughly chagrined.

"Alas! I wish I had at least seen the last of my senior!" Azumao sighed. He closed his eyes as if in prayer.

But the same fate was soon to befall him.

Heart Burning Red

"Ryosai-san," Naozo Kaneko called after Azumao. He purposely mentioned Azumao's former name. Azumao ignored it. He knew that Naozo called him twice, but he ignored it.

"I am back."

Teruko was surprised that her husband had come home unexpectedly early. Then she caught sight of a man standing at the gate. She knew everything.

"Are the children all in?"

"Yes, my lord."

"Send them into my room."

He changed his clothes. He burned incense and offered a prayer before the family Buddhist shrine. Taking down the red and white cakes from the altar, he distributed them among the children.

"Ishimaru," he addressed his eldest son, "the Manyo poem father gave you some time ago. . . . Have you learned it by heart?"

"Yes, I have."

"Try to sing."

The lad began to sing in his lovely voice:

"Born men,
We with a heart burning red
Must stand by the Sovereign. . . ."

Teruko, choked with emotion, threw herself down in tears.

"Azumao, no use feigning insanity again!" It was Naozo Kaneko's scornful voice.

Azumao's captors were now closing in furtively on him.

With his lovely eyes turned to his father, Ishimaru innocently kept on singing:

"Born men,
We with a heart burning red
Must stand by the Sovereign. . . ."

(Translated by K. Otsuka from Eiji Yoshikawa's "Sakura Azumao.")

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BOURSE ISSUE BIDS TO BE DISCONTINUED

Stock Brokers' Body Decides to Cease Transactions in Ware From April 1, 1943

The Stock Brokers' Association of the Tokyo Stock Exchange decided on December 24 that its members should discontinue transactions in the bourse issue on and after April 1 of next year, reports the Tokyo Shimbun.

It will be remembered that the Finance Ministry disclosed earlier this month a schedule to reorganize the machinery of the various stock exchanges in the country so as to create Nippon Securities Exchanges in their places, and simultaneously urged the stock brokers to suggest a conservative attitude in transactions on the part of general traders prior to the completion of the reorganization of the stock exchange machinery.

As, however, there were no signs of any decrease in the volume of speculative engagements as the Finance Ministry hoped, the stock brokers on Thursday discussed ways and means of effecting a sensible counter-measure against this trend and they came to the decision to terminate transactions of the bourse issue on the Tokyo Stock Exchange on March 31 of next year. At the same time, they introduced the following rules to be followed from January 6 till March 31 in connection with the transactions of the bourse issue:

(a) The bourse issue shall be written off the list of transactions in the long-term and short-term sections on March 31, 1943.

(b) Any party selling forwards the bourse issue on or after January 6 shall surrender spots, and any party buying forwards the bourse issue on or after January 6 shall deposit a sum of money covering the full value of the shares bidden.

(c) Switchings of bidden shares shall be restricted to 50 per cent of the total number of shares.

Incidentally, it is expected that the stock brokers' associations belonging to the rest of the stock exchanges in the country will take up a similar counter-measure early in January.

RUBBER RESEARCH BODY TO STUDY NEW RESOURCES

Institute Will Operate on Initial Fund of ¥10,000,000 in Tokyo

With a view to finding reasonable methods of development and utilization of rubber resources which are abundantly available in the Southern Regions, the Dai Nippon Gomu Kenkyujo, (Nippon Rubber Research Institute) was formally inaugurated at the Keizai Kurabu at Honkoku-cho, Nihonbashi Ward, Wednesday.

The institute will start activities shortly with Dr. Yoshio Tanaka, emeritus professor of the Tokyo Imperial University, as the head. A sum of ¥10,000,000 has been appropriated as a working fund. Necessary plants will be erected shortly on a site in Tokyo covering an area of approximately 150,000 square meters.

The new institute will stress studies of new methods for utilizing rubber as paints, fiber, building materials, and substitutes for metals.

In a press interview, Dr. Tanaka said "it is our duty to utilize rubber resources fully so as to increase human welfare and to stabilize the livelihood of the native inhabitants who live on the incomes from rubber cultivation now that vast rubber resources have fallen into our hands."

"For this purpose," he continued, "it is urgently necessary for us to study both theoretical and technical means of utilizing these resources." In conclusion, he said, "we should study the rubber problem in a sacred sense in view of the fact that the rubber resources have fallen in the Japanese hands."

New Shipping Company

Following a deliberative study of the latest situation of Japan's shipping world, the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, at a recent extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders, decided on the establishment of the the Mitsui Shipping Company (to be capitalized at ¥50,000,000 with the shipping department of the M.B.K. as its pivotal centers. The new company will have a force of management of 15 officials with Tadaharu Mukai for president, Shuichi Sasaki, chief of the shipping department of the M.B.K., for managing director, and others. The new company will start activities shortly at its head office in Tokyo and its branch office at Kobe, says the Asahi.

Coal for the Boilers of Asia

Production of coal in the Greater East Asia Sphere has been enormously boosted to cover the mounting need for fuel for all purposes. The inexhaustible mines of the Continent and the still untapped veins offer limitless sources of supply.

ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF MALAI IS STEADY

All Inhabitants Cooperating With Japanese to Achieve Self-Sufficiency in Foods

The steady progress Japan is making in the economic construction of Malai is revealed by the Sangyo Keizai correspondent at Shonan in Thursday's issue of the paper.

The correspondent says substantially as follows:

"Malai, so to speak, is a country of Chinese merchants who are found in all districts of the country. Of the total population of Malai 42.8 per cent are Chinese merchants, 41.5 per cent Malais, 13.6 per cent Indians, 6 per cent European, 0.3 per cent Eurasians and 1.1 per cent others. Thus it is seen that the number of Chinese residents in Malai is larger than that of the native people. Almost every town and village throughout Malai has Chinese merchants. Especially, large cities are almost entirely composed of Chinese residents. For instance, 80 per cent of the entire population of Shonan City are Chinese merchants. The same holds good of Penang.

"The tin mine operatives of Malai are also mostly Chinese. Chinese merchants, Indians, and Malais are all quite willing to cooperate with the Japanese authorities in the economic construction of Malai, because they know that then they will enjoy the fruit of their efforts and labor.

Must Enlighten People

"It is, however, a question whether or not they are thoroughly enough aware of the lofty national ideal of the Japanese nation for the construction of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. In this connection, we must do our best to enlighten them of the heavy and sacred role they are being required to play in close cooperation with the Japanese nation. This is not a very easy task, because only up to the outbreak of the present war in the Pacific, both the Malais and the Chinese merchants had been working for the British under their guidance and control.

"But, they know what they must do for the immediate future. They know that they must work in close cooperation with the Japanese authorities in order to achieve self-sufficiency in foods and to increase the production of all wartime necessities.

"Especially, the Malais and the Chinese merchants are well aware of the great necessity to increase the production of staple foodstuffs in the country. Under the old regime, they were chiefly engaged in the production of rubber, tin, coconuts and other goods for exports, by the order of the British authorities, who paid little attention to the well-being of the Malais and other Asiatic inhabitants of the peninsula. Therefore, they could produce only 40 per cent of the provisions consumed in the region.

Working for Self-Sufficiency

"Under the Japanese administration the inhabitants of Malai are now exercising their efforts to reach a stage of self-sufficiency in foods, through increased cultivation of rice and other food crops.

"Meantime, a large number of Malais, Chinese, and Indians are now working at various mines and plantations under better working conditions than under the British.

"I said that the Malais and the Chinese are as yet not thoroughly aware of the lofty national ideal of the Japanese people concerning the construction of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. But, they are fast realizing their sacred duty in this respect, for they are beginning to show great interest in the policy of the Japanese administration which is making the atmosphere in the country much brighter."

Closing Quotations Of Key Stocks And Bonds

Yesterday's final prices of key stocks and bonds on the Tokyo Stock Exchange follow, in yen:

		Comp. with prev. day
Tokyo Exchange, new (short-term)	86.00	— 4.00
N.Y.K., new (short-term)	77.00	— 0.10
Kanebo Spinning, new (short-term)	74.00	— 0.50
Gov't Bond, Kogo 5%	108.15	Same

DEBENTURE ISSUES FOR QUARTER FIXED

Amount to Be Floated During Last 3 Months of Fiscal Year Set at ¥597,300,0000

In accordance with the decision reached at a meeting of the Finance Ministry on December 24 for discussions as to the schedule for floating loans in the form of debentures for the sake of various enterprises, the total amount of debentures to be issued during the fourth quarter (January to March inclusive, 1943) of the current fiscal year was fixed at ¥597,300,000, reports the Asahi.

In spite of the large amount of loans desired by the corporations concerned, the Finance Ministry restricted the issuance of debentures in conformity with the Monetary Control Scheme, it being understood, however, that special preference was given to the funds required for key industries.

The debentures fixed by the Finance Ministry are classified as follows:

Debentures to Be Issued During 4th Quarter of 1943 Fiscal Year
(Shown in ¥1.000.000)

	Spe. Corporations in Japan	Gen. Corporations in Japan	Corporations in M'choukuo	Corporations in China	Total
Amount of issue	220	135	152.3	90	597.3
To be under-written by syndicate	54	33	39.5	34	160.5
To be subscribed by general public	30	83	49.3	10	172.3
To be under-written by Gov. and special parties	136	19	63.5	46	264.5

Note: (a) Debentures of special corporations in Japan include those issued by Management Corporations and the Welfare Bank. (b) those of corporations in Manchoukuo include national bonds of Manchoukuo. (c) conversion debentures excluded.

BULLISH TENDENCY STRONGER IN SILK

Feeling Stirred Up by Announcement of Official Production Plan for Next Year

(Special to the Japan Times Advertiser)

YOKOHAMA, December 28.—A stronger bullish tendency was manifested on the spot raw silk market last week, with actual consumers and middlemen continuing buying with more enthusiasm than before, taking optimistic views of the future supply and demand position of raw silk. The feeling seemed stirred up by an official plan announced midweek for the production of raw silk for the silk year 1943-1944, projecting a considerable reduction in the supply of filature silk. There was no knowing when the tendency would cease to be seen.

The prices ruled stronger daily in the circumstances, which brought up export silk prices to ¥200 to ¥250 higher than the home use goods, and the standard price of white 13/15 deniers, grade D to a level nearly as high as ¥1,700, the maximum limit of officially fixed prices.

The futures market was unchanged and extremely tranquil with the speculative mood cooling down more and more. The prices were pegged without any stimulating factor visible. For December, not a single bale was delivered after all on the delivery day of the 22nd, when the outstanding transactions had to be privately settled by a compromise of ¥15.99, which being ¥70 or ¥80 per 100 kin lower than the current spot price, not a single bale was offered for delivery.

Stocks Held

The stocks fell off at last considerably below 10,000 bales on the 21st, when the total held in Yokohama and Kobe stood only at 7,475 bales, according to the Yokohama Raw Silk Merchants' Guild returns, which give the total arrivals at both ports for the first twenty days of December as 18,697½ bales and the total re-shipments from them as 13,354½ bales.

An official plan for the production of silkworm eggs, cocoons, raw silk and short silk fiber for the next silk year was formed and approved by the Silk Committee, which met on the 21st and considered it as submitted by the Government for consideration. The plan fixes the standard production for the silk year at 105,000,000 grams for silkworm eggs, 63,000,000 kwamme for cocoons, 305,000 bales for raw silk and 3,625,000 kwamme for short silk fiber. Compared with the last silk year, the production of short silk fiber for the next year shows an increase of 60 per cent. It is most interesting to note that the estimated production of short silk fiber has been increased heavily evidently for the purpose of making it serve much more as utility for insuring the supply of a national wearing material.

Cocoon Production Fixed

The standard production of cocoons for next year has been fixed at 63,000,000 kwamme as stated above. How this standard of production can be ensured is thought to be somewhat of a problem for silk-raisers in view of technical difficulties, the readjustment of mulberry farms and the higher cost of production. The Government, however, is said to be determined to realize the plan by the more skilful use of the sericultural art under a stronger policy of guiding sericulturists. A simplification of the method of silkworm rearing will be among measures to be taken for the purpose, and the method of feeding silkworm with mulberry leaves on twigs will be adopted in place of the existing ordinary method, thus effecting an economy in labor and the feed. How the new feeding method is more economical than the old may be seen from results obtained from the experimental rearing of silkworms at two Government sericultural experiment stations. A comparison of the two methods of rearing shows that the labor involved in the new method is only 67 or 68 taking that in the old method at 100; the quantity of feed in the new method is 88 or 89 as against 100 in the old.

The total production of raw silk planned for the next silk year is expected to affect to a certain extent the silk reelers and weavers, and an inevitable means taken for meeting it would be the combination of enterprises and the strengthening of the control of production, limiting the manufacture of comparatively useless silk fabrics and encouraging that of those for practical use. For this, the present allocation of production of meisen, cushion cloths, umbrella cloths, habutae, and Fuji silk will be most probably increased as officially designated varieties.

Bill Clearings

December 28
(In ¥1,000)

	Tokyo	Osaka
Bills Cleared	385,985	221,736
Balance	131,638	67,559

STRAIN ON BRITISH ENDURANCE

Once Mighty Economic Structure of Britain Steadily Crumbling Under Disastrous Warfare; Shortages in Necessaries Acute

The wartime living of the British is becoming more and more strained as the war situation continues to develop entirely against them. A Domei dispatch from Lisbon gives a brief outline as to how the British are now obliged, whether willing or not, to cooperate with the Government whose only hope is pinned on prosecution of long-term resistance. The dispatch in substance follows:—

The British war expenditure has been on the steady increase since the outbreak of the European War. According to an announcement made by the Exchequer on December 9, the war expenses from November 29 to December 5 amounted to £20,000,000 per day on an average, which exceeded by far the general estimate heretofore made setting the average figures at £13,000,000 a day.

The wartime finance of Britain involving such huge war expenses must of necessity put heavier economic burdens on its people. During the pre-war days the incidence of taxation, both national and local per person was £5/19/-, which during the fiscal year of 1937-1938 increased to £24/16/- and during 1941-1942 to £51/14/-.

Turning Nationalistic

Prior to the outbreak of the war, the entrepreneur had been paying part of his profits into the National Treasury, but recently all his profits must be turned over to the Government, who returns a portion of it to the entrepreneur. In this way, with the prolongation of the war, the capitalistic economy of Britain is making a sudden turn toward nationalistic economy whose first object is the prosecution of war.

Since the enforcement of the wartime financial policy, progressive taxation is being applied on an annual income of £250 and over, which makes the life of the middle-class people still harder. The increase in indirect taxes have also been very great. For example, a moderate smoker has to pay £10/10/- into the National Treasury in tobacco tax even though, of course, his annual income is less than £300.

The number of ships which had been carrying provisions to the British Isles has been considerably decreased on account of the new situation arising in North Africa which calls for large volumes of shipping for military purposes. The shortage of shipping has been so serious that Lord Woolton, Minister for Food, has recently given a warning to the people concerning the food problem, while on the other hand, Robert Hudson, Minister for Agriculture, has expressed his optimistic view that "As matters stand at present, the supply of 66 per cent of the people's requirements for daily necessaries is guaranteed by domestic production, and an increase production of 15 per cent is expected by the end of the year." He further said that at present 50,000 females in farm-villages are engaged in the production of foodstuffs, but that the number is expected to be doubled next year, presumably for the purpose of making believe that the Government has some excellent measures for improving the food situation in the near future.

Rubber Collected

Concerning the rubber shortage, Sir James Merchant, who is responsible for collection of used rubber and production of reclaimed rubber, recently urged the people to deliver up to the Government all rubber articles in their possession, saying that "Fifty tennis-balls or three hundred mouthpieces for earthen teapots are sufficient to cover what is required in completing a small boat and a pair of Wellington rubber boots is enough to make a rubber jacket for a soldier."

The Government is also making strenuous efforts for completing synthetic rubber by establishing a synthetic rubber research commission in an endeavor to make up for the rubber resources which Britain has lost in East Asia.

The allotment of gasoline for civilian use has been subjected to repeated reductions in the past, but after December 1, a further 10 per cent cut has been put into force even for motorcars which are used for works directly connected with the war, while those connected indirectly with the war have had their supply of gasoline cut down by a further 25 per cent.

Of all the shortages which the warring Britain is suffering from, that of coal represent the greatest source of worry. Against its annual consumption of 250,000,000 tons, the output for this year has only been 100,000,000 tons. With a view to getting out of the difficulty, therefore, the Government has recently instituted the National Coal Commission with Lloyd George as chairman.

Thus the Government is attempting to crystalize the total strength of the nation into war efforts by arousing war consciousness in the minds of the people.

To Permit Money-Lending

Money lenders and pawn-brokers formerly engaged in offering loans to the lower classes of Malais are to be allowed to resume their trade pending the official permission of the Nippon Military Administration, reports a Domei dispatch from Shonan. Some of these money lenders had charged an exorbitant rate of interest ranging around 50 per cent per annum. In view of the undesirable consequences arising from it, the Nippon Military Administration is expected to exercise strict control over the trade so as to keep the interest rates on the lowest possible level.

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YEAR ENDS QUIET ON STOCK MARKET

Prices Close Within Narrow Range of Oscillations; Some Step Up

The Tokyo Stock Exchange on the last day of its session for the year which took place yesterday saw a quiet scene of transactions and prices closed within a narrow range of fluctuations.

In the long-term section, Shinkosho Iron Works stepped up ¥1.10, Iriyama Coal and Japan Electro Chemical ¥1.00 each, while Japan Sand Iron and Ina Electric Railways slipped ¥1.80 and ¥1.60 respectively due to a profit-taking sell off.

In the short-term section, the bourse issue turned easier by reason of the unloading continuously effected by its bidders in view of the forthcoming reorganization of the exchange machinery and the announcement announced recently made by the Exchange authorities that its transactions should terminate on March 31 next year. The rest of the listed issues remained steady regardless of the price movement of the bourse issue.

The spot market was featureless due to the hesitant attitude assumed by general traders as is annually the case at the end of the year.

Long-Term Section

Yesterday's final prices of select issues in the long-term section were:

First Section

	— Delivery — Jan.	Feb.
Kanebo Spinning (50)	128.1	128.0
Sino-Japan Spin (50)	79.1	79.6
Kurashiki Rayon (50)	67.4	67.0
Toa Hemp Ind (50)	72.5	73.4
Tokyo Hemp Yarn (50)	93.0	94.0
Showa Elec Ind (50)	78.9	78.5
Japan Nitrogen (50)	74.0	74.5
Second Section		
N. Y. K. (50)	91.1	90.9
O. S. K. (50)	84.9	85.7
Toyo Steamship (50)	67.4	66.5
Nissan Steamship (50)	61.1	—
Mitsubishi Mining (50)	80.3	80.3
Ishihara Ind (50)	66.2	67.3
Third Section		
Furukawa Elec Ind (50)	100.5	102.0
M'bishi Elec Mach (50)	127.9	126.0
Japan Oils and Fats (50)	65.5	66.1
Japan Beer (50)	97.1	97.5
Tropical Ind (42½)	41.9	42.3
Sumatra Dev. new (27½)	44.5	44.9
Asahi Glass (50)	100.6	99.3
Toa Tobacco (50)	101.0	101.0
Manchou Tobacco (50)	67.5	66.8

Short-Term Section

	Open.	High	Low	Clos.
Tokyo Exch. new	86.0	8.0	5.2	86.0
N. Y. K., new	76.5	7.0	6.0	77.0
M'bishi Heavy Ind.	93.7	4.0	2.4	94.0
Kanebo Spin. new	73.8	4.0	2.5	74.0
Teikoku Rayon, new	68.5	7.0	6.1	68.5
Hitachi Iron Works.	67.2	7.2	6.6	66.6
Osaka Exch. new	45.2	5.5	2.5	45.4
Japan Steel Tube	67.2	7.2	7.0	67.0
Japan Oil	74.6	4.9	4.2	74.5
S. M. R.	72.8	2.8	2.6	72.6
N. Y. K., old	90.5	1.0	0.5	90.8
Hokkaido Coal	74.0	4.0	2.1	73.1
Kanebo Spin, old	126.2	6.6	6.2	126.6
Toyo Rayon, new	53.7	3.8	2.8	52.8
Kokura Iron Works.	52.6	2.6	2.2	52.2
Japan Beer, new	44.5	4.5	4.0	44.0
Japan Sugar, new	65.2	5.2	5.1	65.1
Ensuiko Sugar	61.3	1.3	1.1	61.1
Japan Mining	61.2	1.2	0.8	60.8
Manchou Ind	58.1	8.1	7.7	57.7

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Capital Paid-up 60,000,000
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TOKYO, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1942

The New Order in Greater East Asia

An international order which enjoyed its morbid prosperity for more than a century as a brutal tool of Anglo-American-Dutch vested interests is now on the verge of its tragic end as a new world order in both Asia and Europe is now in the rapid process of healthy development. Undoubtedly the peoples of the world, standing as they are at the threshold of the New Era, are asking themselves about the nature of the new international order and about the prospects of their own status in the New Era. Particularly for those peoples of Greater East Asia who have so long been made the object of Anglo-Dutch-American exploitation, it would be quite natural to ask themselves the same question.

Considering the nature of the inquiry, it would be difficult for any honest inquirer to make any hasty prognostications. Of course it would not be at all difficult for those self-styled manipulators of world affairs and of the destiny of mankind in Britain and America to make any number of pronouncements regarding post-war international relations and their own programs for bringing about a kind of world order which will satisfy all the needs of all the peoples.

Be that as it may, a simple analytical examination will be of help to those who are honestly interested in the inquiry and in the early consummation of the new order. To all intents and purposes the old international order was a creation of the superior combined power of the Anglo-American nations for the sole protection and promotion of their vested interests all over the world. When this order was fully established by high-handed application of their superior military and economic power, the Anglo-American architects of the old order and their cohorts lost no time not only in justifying but also in extolling the order under the cloak of charity and humanity.

It was their common contention that what was good for them was good for all and that what was economically right could not be morally wrong. They, therefore, advocated the doctrine of a natural harmony of interests, of an identity of international morality with law and order, of the white man's burden, and of manifest destiny. It is needless to point out the fact that these seemingly ethical and moral assertions have served as an effective cloak for the vested interests of the privileged few in Britain and America.

Thus, for more than a hundred years, the old order asserted itself most arbitrarily in international relations with formidable authority. However, when the champions of the old order became aware of the inevitability of far-reaching changes in international relations after the first World War, they did not hesitate to resort to all sorts of means to assure their end—the protection and maintenance of their status quo. As a matter of fact even during the first World War some influential proponents of the old order busied themselves to counteract the inevitable world trend. So the League of Nations was engineered as a bulwark of the status quo.

It is recalled that the expressed objects and purposes of the League of Nations were the promotion of international cooperation and the achievement of international peace and security. Of course there could have been no justifiable objection to such an international organization if it really stood for its expressed objects and purposes. But students of world affairs did not have to wait for the post-mortem of the League in order to ascertain its implied objects and purposes. To all intents and purposes, the League was nothing but a bulwark of the old order so decidedly detrimental to the real welfare of mankind as a whole.

Among several utopian doctrines that were presented before the Versailles Peace Conference, the doctrine of racial self-determination should not be overlooked in connection with the clever designs for the protection of the old order. Although this doctrine seems to emanate from the conception that each racial group has the natural right to determine the form of its own government, it proved to be one of the most effective means for the protection and maintenance of the old order under Anglo-American hegemony in world affairs. Nothing is easier to understand than the utter helplessness of the small psuedo-sovereign nations created under this doctrine when faced by the presence of the military, economic and political power of the unified British Commonwealth of Nations to say nothing of the combined Anglo-American power. That is the reason why Britain gave its loyal support to the doctrine of racial self-determination and the establishment and maintenance of the League of Nations.

It is also recalled that since the outbreak of the present world upheaval, the Anglo-American guardians of the old order have lost no time in reviving their crafty old propaganda so effectively utilized during the first World War. These astute propagandists have been telling the world that they have been and still are the only and real protectors of the rights and interests of the small nations. However, if the small nations are not quite oblivious of what these self-styled protectors have done to them in the past, and if these nations can rightly perceive what these apologists of the status quo would most likely to do to them in the future, they should know just how they should deal with those old foxes.

In the light of the post-mortem examination of the old order, one can easily see that the order was destined to meet a tragic end for all the crimes committed against humanity during its existence. And at the same time one can also see why the new world order which is now in the making cannot afford to repeat the blunders and shortcomings of the old international order.

Japan is fighting a war staking its very national existence in order to consummate the New Order in East Asia. It is quite understandable that Japan, in carrying out this epoch-making task, will not tolerate those gilded deceitful doctrines which constituted the corner-stones of the old world order. Japan will make no pretention regarding the full utilization of her power in the consummation of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. Naturally she will expect the component members of the Sphere to contribute as much as they each possibly can for the early achievement of their common task.

Moreover, from the standpoint of geopolitics, it is clear that the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere embraces a portion of the earth most logically fitted for the purpose. From the standpoint of international economy, the Sphere no doubt constitutes an almost natural unit. The trend of world politics quite logically precludes the feasibility of most of the old theories of sovereignty. The traditional concept of territorial sovereignty as such must be discarded in the post-war world in favor of the general economic welfare of all the peoples of the world.

In the post-war world a small territorial unit as a completely self-sufficing entity under the traditional concept of sovereignty will have no proper place. It is quite conceivable that the world after the termination of the present war will be divided into a few regional economic units which would facilitate the natural flow of economic activities. This does not mean in any way that the importance of independent political units in post-war international relations will be minimized. It does mean, however, that any form of political unit which would prove to be a hindrance to the promotion of the economic welfare of the general public should be dealt with accordingly. Political equality without equitable economic opportunity will be worse than nothing.

It is understood, therefore, that in making it possible for each to enjoy its proper place in the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, greater emphasis will be placed on the economic well-being of all the component members than on any theoretical discussion of traditional political doctrines. Honeyed words without deeds is the way of the guardians of the old order, and the eradication of this international trickery is regarded as one of the aims of and objects of the War of Greater East Asia and of the consummation of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.

A Year Ago Today

Dec. 29, 1941

From the Files of Japan Times Advertiser

The American forces now are in full retreat from the Lingayen Bay area, being unable to withstand the fierce onrush of Japanese Units, while successive landings are being made by Japanese troops at points north and southeast of Manila, according to a Domei dispatch from Lisbon.

* * *

The United States Navy Department admitted that at least two and probably four United States destroyers have been damaged by Japanese bombers during fierce aerial onslaughts, according to a report from Lisbon.

AUSTRALIA'S ECONOMIC FABRIC SHOWS MANY INHERENT FAULTS

Transportation System Is Not Yet Fully Developed—Country Has No Sufficient Supply of Oil

By NOBORU YAMAMOTO
(From the Nampo)

Part II

Nearly half of Australia lies in the tropic zone and is surrounded by ocean water. The total area is 2,974,581 square miles, or nearly twice as large as the United States, and it is 20 times as large as Japan Proper.

In the past, the remoteness of Australia from the centers of civilization had been the chief hindrance to her political, economic and cultural developments of the country. The remarkable stride made in modern aviation has brought Australia closer to the British Isles, the United States and to Japan itself. During peace time the air trip from London to Sydney via India was made in 10 days, while the air trip from San Francisco to Sydney via New Zealand required but 6 days.

The topography of the country is a rolling plain. There is a mountain range in eastern Australia but this natural barrier did not obstruct in any way the economic development of the country. But it was the great desert, lying in central Australia, which delayed the unification of the States.

Topographically, Australia can be divided into three main zones consisting of (1) the eastern plateau; (2) the central basin; and (3) the western plain. The soil of each of these zones has a special characteristic of its own in that in may be either rich in minerals or best suited for farming or grazing.

Some of the essential minerals produced in Australia are gold, coal, silver, lead, iron and copper. But today, special emphasis is placed on the production of coal and iron ore more than on any other minerals.

To Australia, coal is most important because it is from coal that she derives most of the generating powers to run her heavy industries. From 70 to 90 per cent of her total annual coal production is from the eastern plateau in the State of New South Wales, near the city of Sydney. This extreme concentration of the country's only source of generating power in that one section is clearly disadvantageous, since the industrialization of other parts of the country cannot be carried out effectively.

The centers of iron mines are located in the State of South Australia. From here the iron ore is transported to iron refineries in New Castle and Port Canberra in New South Wales. But due to the inconvenience of transportation and the existence of high-grade refining coal in certain districts, Australian steel industries are concentrated in one specific place.

Concentrated in One Area

In addition to the gold mines of West Australia, other underground mineral resources are found in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. This is why mining and manufacturing industries have been concentrated in the southeastern portion of Australia.

Rainfall, more than anything else, has much to do with Australian economy. Her two most important industries, agriculture and grazing, together with the distribution of population, are attributed to this factor. The rainfall for the entire country can also be divided into three classifications: (1) the eastern section where it rains throughout the year; (2) the northern section where it rains only in summer and; (3) the southern section where it rains in winter. Since there is sufficient rain throughout the year in eastern Queensland, eastern New South Wales, Victoria and in southern Tasmania, these areas are the wheat producing centers of the country. In the areas where the rainfall is not so abundant, sheep grazing is conducted on an extensive scale. New South Wales is at the top of the list in wool and meat productions, followed by Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, West Australia and Tasmania.

Social conditions influenced to a very great extent the development of the country's representative industries in southeastern Australia. The circumstance which caused this was the colonial policy pursued by Britain to make Australia her granary for the supply of foodstuffs and raw materials.

The so-called "White Australian" policy, during its preliminary state started purely from an economic consideration to protect the white laborers, but, today, it has become a national creed. It has become so deeply imbedded that only the descendants of the English race receive preferential treatment, not only in the field of economy but in political, cultural and other fields as well.

Population of Australia

These social and economic circumstances can be ascribable to the composition of the population. It is predominated by the descendants of the English race. The population in 1933 was 6,629,839 or a density of only 2.33 persons for each square mile. In 1940 the population was estimated at 7,068, 688. It is not difficult to infer why the Australians were able to maintain a high standard of living on their vast, rich domain. With a limited population and protected by far-reaching labor laws, it is no wonder that Australia has been called the "Heaven of white laborers." Out of some 7,000,000 people, about 99.1 per cent are the descendants of the English stock. More than 70 per cent of the population is concentrated in the three southeastern States of New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland.

The official survey in 1933 revealed that 46.87 per cent of the total population resided in the two cities of Sydney and Melbourne. The remaining population was distribututed as follows: 16.97 per cent in other principal cities and 35.9 per cent in rural farming districts.

In a country like Australia where its principal industries are farming and stock raising, this fact may sound rather unusual, but, it does show that the country's political and economic activities are being conducted with the principal cities of each State as their center. Another interesting fact about the principal cities of Australia is that, other than Canberra, the capital of the Commonwealth, they are all situated on the coast line. With these cities as the nuclei, communications were gradually branched inland to open up the undeveloped area.

Transportation Weakness

Although all main cities and towns are connected with railway lines the railway gauge is not standardized throughout the country. The transportation efficiency is therefore greatly lowered. From a military viewpoint, this can be looked upon as a glaring weakness.

The percentage of Australian population classified according to industries is as follows:

Types of industry	1911	1921	1933
Farming, mining and stock raising	30.4	25.8	21.3
Manufacture	28.4	31.2	32.1
Commerce	14.5	15.3	16.7
Free industry	7.3	4.7	8.6
Transportation	8.0	9.0	8.3
Domestic employees	10.1	9.1	10.0

In spite of the fact that Australia is primarily an agricultural country, whose industry is centered on farming, stock raising and mining, the percentage of the population engaged in this field is comparatively smaller than the percentage engaged in manufacturing. This is due to four reasons: (1) high wages demanded by farm workers; (2) large scale farming conducted by tractors; (3) little man-power required in stock raising; (4) intensified industrialization since the First World War.

Nevertheless, industries closely connected with the soil have been considered as Australia's primary industries and manufacturing a secondary one. As was previously mentioned, this was the result of the British policy of non-industrialization of her colonies.

During the 10 years prior to the outbreak of the Second World War, the average rate of production from soil industries was 63 per cent while manufacturing accounted for merely 37 per cent. In the former, 43 per cent was contributed by agriculture and stock raising, the chief products being wheat and wool.

Out of the total productions for the entire country in 1938, the three southeastern States of New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland produced 62.5 per cent of the country's truck farming products; and 69.3 per cent of the country's grain products. Moreover, in mineral products, with the exception of gold, these States were the sources of 80.6 per cent of the coal and 99.9 per cent of the iron ore supplies of the entire country. Even 83.5 per cent of the finished products was manufactured in the same section of the country.

Farm Exports

Australia is famous for her exportation of agricultural products. Close to 50 per cent of the annual production of live stock, agricultural, mineral and grain products was earmarked for exportation and these so called raw materials comprised nearly 95 per cent of Australia's export. Manufactured products, on the other hand, were essentially for domestic consumption and only an insignificant average of 5 per cent was being exported. Therefore to Australia, the exportation of her surplus raw materials is the safety valve which keeps her economic structure from blowing to pieces.

In addition, the chief markets of Australian exports are the British Isles and the widely scattered British colonies. This shows how much Australia's economy must depend on the motherland for support. And this reliance on the foreign market has been going on for such a long time that Australia's export has lost its elasticity. There is also the danger of market manipulations by London speculators in Australian commodities, which seriously affects her economic machinery.

During 1938 39, Australia's principal exports to the British Isles were the following: wool, 43 per cent; wheat, 58 per cent; butter and cheese, 80 per cent; and gold, 51 per cent. Fifty-five per cent of the total export during the same year was shipped to Britain alone and 20 per cent to the rest of the British colonies. Imports from the British Empire were 60 per cent, including 42 per cent from the British Isles. Machineries, metallic tools, and textile goods were the leading commodities imported from Britain. The United States was another nation who found Australia to be a good customer for machineries, automobiles, oil and gasoline.

The absence of oil resources in Australia is particularly important. Before the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia, the former Dutch East Indies was the principal supplier of this vital commodity. But now, with not a drop of oil coming from the East Indies, Australia must rely on American imports. The insufficiency of oil is another flaw which weakens the wartime economic structure of that country.

Industrial Production Low

From about the time of the First World War, Australian economy began to shift from agriculture to manufacturing. Today, more people are employed in factories than on farms and mines but an interesting paradox is that the production output of the former is far below the latter. One of the main obstacles which stood in the way of industrializing that country has been her limited population. This lack of manpower increased the laborers' wages which in turn increased the cost of manufactured goods. The manufacturers could not compete against foreign imports. So the Government had to increase a protective tariff to safeguard her domestic manufacturers.

The world wide economic depression of 1929 dealt a terrific blow to Australian industry. The decline in exports inevitably meant a shrinkage in funds needed in purchasing necessary manufactured import goods. It led Australians to realize more and more the necessity of developing their home industry so as to be able to maintain a state of self-sufficiency in finished products. After the depression, Australia was even more eager than ever before to industrialize the country. But her plan was cut short when she assented to participate and link her fortunes in the sterling bloc.

It was obvious that the British Government was equally earnest to prevent the industrialization of Australia. John Bull was determined that Australia remain as the supplier of raw materials and foodstuffs rather than turn out manufactured goods and compete in the world's market.

Control Tightened

Within the domain of the Commonwealth itself, the Australian Government initiated a planned economy to combat depression. The power of control which the Commonwealth Government wields over various industries has always been great, but on this occasion it further increased its controlling power.

Finally when Britain declared war on Germany in September, 1939, Australia immediately followed suit. Overnight, the complete reorganization of the heavy and national defense industries became imperative. The peace time planned economy was plunged into the wartime planned economy and various economic control measures were promulgated in a rapid succession. It must be recognized that these efforts bore considerable fruit. Since the outbreak of the second European War, Australia has been Britain's invaluable supply depot not only for foodstuffs and raw materials but also for a substantial supply of fighting men and military equipment.

However, before Australia had completed her reorganization, the War of Greater East Asia broke out in which she herself was directly involved. In spite of her joint war strategy with Britain, the United States and the Dutch East Indies the Japanese war machine swept on to complete the operations in the Southern Regions in the course of several months to bring pressure on the Australian mainland itself. The Australian Government was given a chance to reconsider its hostile attitude against Japan, but it refused: and today it has become merely a cat's paw of the Anglo-American Governments.

As the war progresses, Australia's trade relations with Britain is getting more and more precarious. For this reason, she has come to depend more on the United States for imports of war materials and construction goods, and to seek an outlet of her surplus agricultural products. Besides these shortcomings, Australia lacks sufficient bottoms and manpower.

Faced with so many unfavorable conditions, the blockading of her ports and the severance of communications with both the British Isles and the United States will indeed be fatal to Australia.

(End)

Fruits of Wisdom

The moral law of the universe is progress. Every generation that passes idly over the earth without adding to that progress remains uninscribed upon the register of humanity, and the succeeding generation tramples its ashes as dust.—Mazzini.

* * *

If virtue promises happiness, prosperity and peace, then progress in virtue is progress in each of these; for to whatever point the perfection of anything brings us, progress is always an approach toward it.—Epictetus.

* * *

Nature knows no pause in progress and development, and attaches her curse on all inaction.—Goethe.

JAPAN'S WARTIME ECONOMY CHARACTERIZED BY VIRILITY

Situation in Enemy Countries Is Found to Be Just the Reverse, With Rising Prices and No Materials

By KOSAKU OKAMOTO
(From the Gaiko Jiho)

Part I

With the complete expulsion of Anglo-American influence from Greater East Asia, Japan is rapidly proceeding on the road to final victory by her military successes in the War of Greater East Asia, and her national economy is being directed towards the utter defeat of the United States and Britain as well as towards the establishment of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.

On the opposite shore of the Pacific Ocean, the United States, battered by repeated military defeats, has placed its economic structure on a complete wartime basis. A knowledge of the actual facts of American economy is necessary to determine the exact fighting power of our enemy in order to insure the ultimate victory of Japanese economy on an East Asiatic basis.

War today is no longer limited only to military battles but includes the rivalries of nations involving ideologies, political diplomacies and economics, and these factors become the weapons of belligerent states in modern warfare. Economics is the basis of the material strength of a nation, and by it is its war objectives attained.

Just at the time when East Asia and Europe were making great advances towards the building of a new order of life, and United States inveigled Chungking and England to join in reversing the natural trend of history, and offering vast amounts of goods and capital, America has made herself the arsenal of democracy and has vaunted her powers. Without participating in the perils of war America has furthered her economic and political influence in Canada and in Central and South America while with the ABCD encirclement policy she has sought to impose economic strangulation upon Japan.

Thus, America's economic powers were sweeping over the world and were casting a spell over the areas of East Asia when finally on December 8, with the granting of the Imperial Rescript, this evil was expelled from these areas.

America's economic fighting strength is possible of study from many different angles, but manpower seems to be the most likely subject as it is not only the natural background of economics but is also the nucleus of the economic life of a nation. No matter how rich in resources a country may be, if it has not the people to make full use of them those material things are valueless.

Racial Disunity in U.S.

In investigating the racial make-up of the United States, it is quite clear why American public opinion has not been unified as much as would be expected. In the United States about 90 per cent of the population is of the white race while the remaining 10 per cent is colored. Of this ratio, the English comprise nearly 60 per cent, with Scandanavians and Russians five per cent and the Dutch, French and Belgians making up the remainder of the white population. Then, there are the Mexicans, Indians, Chinese and others so that the racial complexity of the United States is unprecedented in any other nation of the world. Therefore, many political and social problems which have never risen in other countries is facing America.

With these many racial groups are also the various immigrant peoples who bring with them their peculiar ways of life that the United States of America is truly a "racial melting pot." It is because of this racial complication that there is no unity in America's national policies, and unification of public opinion is made very difficult.

With this disunity in the composition of the 130,000,000 who make up the population of the United States, even though these may have contributed to the development of the country in the past as an economic resource, yet when viewed in the light of modern economy mastered for a total war a great question mark is raised as to the value of this racial conglomeration.

The controlling principles behind wartime and peacetime economy are vastly different, and at a time when absolute national unity is necessary should there be rivalry and friction among the people who are the very life of national economy and who from the foundation for a nation's wartime resources and production, it is easy to see what great obstacles are placed in the way of fulfilling national policies. Disputes arising from wartime controls are an example of the problems to face a disunited nation.

In this respect, in a study of the composition of the people of Japan one can see that there is not one whit of such discordance, and the Japanese are one and all united in coordinated, unselfish efforts towards the successful conclusion of the War of Greater East Asia. Thus, the economic fighting power of Japan and that of the United States are by the nature of their respective peoples clearly at great odds.

Shortage of Materials

Of the strategic raw materials, as listed by the United States Army and Navy Munitions Bureaus, those that America depends upon totally from foreign sources are antimony, chromium, manganese, Manila hemp, nickel, quartz, crystallized quartz, quinine, rubber, raw silk and tin, and those which are to a great degree imported into America are mica, mercury and tungsten.

Up to the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia, America was importing rubber from the South Seas regions, tin from British Malaya and the Netherlands East Indies raw silk and hemp from Japan and the Philippines, some manganese and tungsten, from Malaya.

However, all these regions have been brought under Japan's control and the United States now finds it impossible to acquire her sorely needed strategic supplies.

This does not mean that the United States has no other sources of wool, bauxite, tin, manganese, tungsten, chromium, antimony and other materials. But an important condition precedent to this import is the problem of securing sea supremacy in both the Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans. In view of the widespread operations by the Imperial Japanese Navy in the Pacific and even as far as the waters of the Atlantic, even though such materials may appear available to America, as a practical problem the flow of American shipping through areas where our war ships are operating is wholly impossible.

Before the outbreak of the War of Greater East Asia the United States engineered the formation of the ABCD encirclement ring to effect an economic blockade against Japan, but with the brilliant victories of the Imperial Forces a counter-blockade has now been established against America.

The economic strength of the United States, which finds the lack of raw materials a vital check on its production program, is, like the American military power, on the verge of collapse.

Surplus of Money

In a study of America's financial life, we must first look upon her money market. From about the time of the outbreak of the second European War the world looked upon the United States as a safety zone, and all its money began to pour into the country. America finally found that she was in possession of a surplus of some $25,000,000,000 of such money as she could not dispose of in her national economy.

The possession of all this money by America did not in any way embarrass the rest of the world, and on the contrary other nations devised a new type of money system and discarded the traditional monetary standard system as a historical relic of the past.

Thus, all the money which flowed into America has become but worthless metal and has contributed nothing to American economy. Indeed, America has become a modern King Midas with influx of the world's gold into her coffers, and that condition is hastening the day when America will be bankrupted, for an excess of money in a nation gives rise to inflation.

Without going into detailed statistics, it will suffice to point out that the reserve fund of the United States Federal Reserve Banks has increased over 100 per cent, and banks are all greatly concerned over how to dispose of this surplus. This, with other money problems, is steadily increasing the dangers of inflation.

Since the outbreak of the European War the American budget for national defense has risen sharply, and the 1942 budget called for an expenditure of $17,500,000,000 while revenues would total only $8,971,000,000, making a deficit of $8,529,000,000. To pay for this program of spending, a great increase in national defense taxes and the raising of the total of national defense bonds to be issued to $40,000,000,000 had to be effected. By this year the government bonds had reached the unprecedented total of $60,000,000,000.

Money in circulation in the United States has increased to almost 16,000,000,000 so that inflation has now become inevitable and is very apt to reach an uncontrollable stage before long.